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The Black Cat

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E. F. Bishop.

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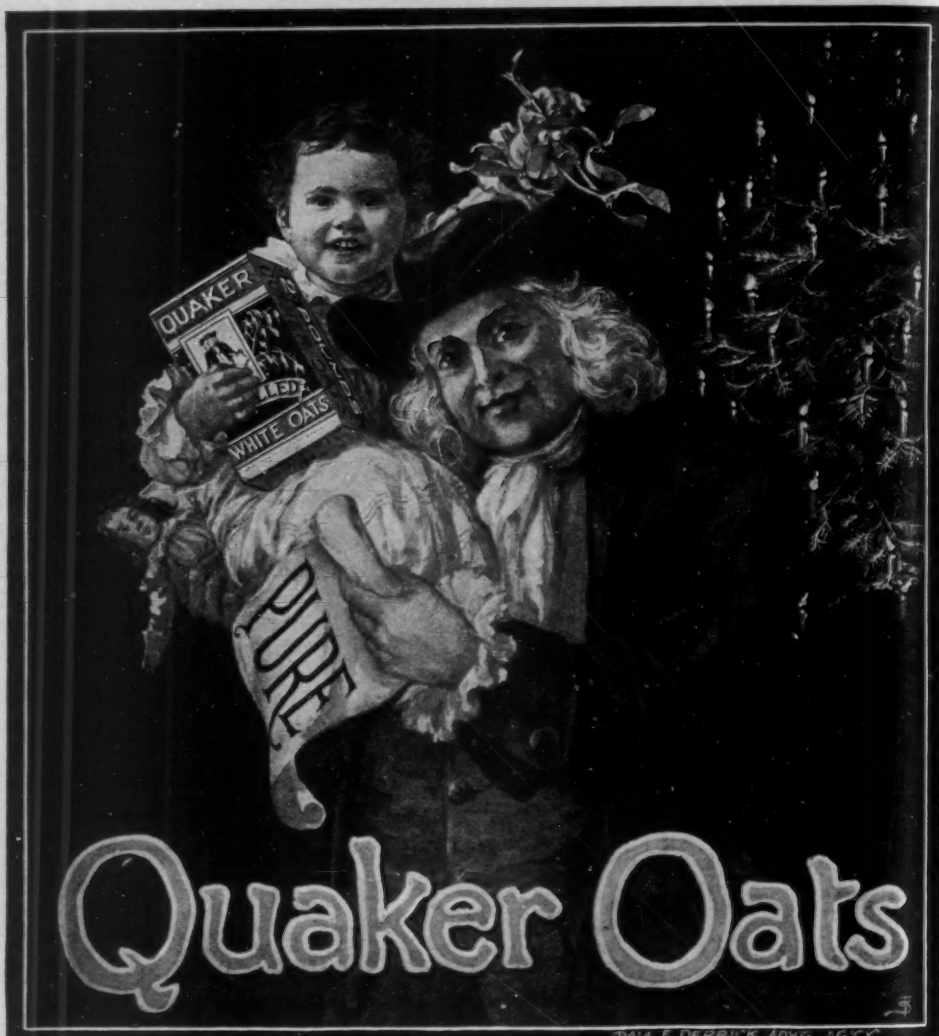

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The Black Cat

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A Postal Card Tragedy.*

BY E. F. BISHOP.

NO doubt Sir Rowland Hill foresaw much of the enormous increase of correspondence which his great penny postage reform was sure to cause, and he survived to witness a great part of it in his own country, and indeed even lived to see the post card, and to know of the introduction of its American cousin, the postal card, into the United States.

But even his sanguine mind could not have conceived of the extravagant fashion in which the "postals" were welcomed by Americans, to whom they doubly recommended themselves by their convenience and novelty. In the early seventies thousands were bought and sent by everybody to anybody — about anything. It was an amusement so fascinating and inexpensive that the young fairly revelled in it.

George Reade was a member of a junior class in a well-known boys' school in which the "craze" had an extensive run. The boys bought them by the pack and showered them upon relatives, friends and acquaintances, and finally upon entire strangers. The newspapers told of one ingenious writer who succeeded in having

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a card sent round the world and returned to him — a performance which the postal regulations now forbid — and young Reade's schoolmates emulated the achievement, but without success. Then they began to write absurd messages to creatures of their imagination. No replies were expected or received, but the boys delighted in showing each other these foolish productions and chuckling over imaginary annoyances of rural postmasters in remote regions in endeavoring to find claimants for "postals" that never would be called for.

The specialty which George Reade had determined to master was mineralogy, with a view to ultimate mining, and of course, an eventual fortune. The waste places on the maps in his atlas — those marked "unknown" and "unexplored" — had for him an especial attraction, and any large district in the great West where few towns were marked his fancy readily filled with auriferous ledges, mother-lodes and El Dorado pockets. Maps of northwestern States he found particularly interesting, so much of them was blank in those days, save for a few devious streams and a host of little lakes, mostly unnamed. In the northern half of one State there was scarcely a post-office indicated. This was before Reade had heard of "star routes," but he had just familiarized himself with the postal card, and felt that here would be a grand way to stimulate the postal service and call the attention of the authorities to the needs of a slighted section, for he was convinced that there must be *some* inhabitants in such a great stretch of country.

Accordingly, he determined to bring to the attention of the Post-office Department the lack of facilities in this neglected region. Directly in the centre of the emptiest portion of the map he found a long, narrow, winding lake, named "Vermilion." No settlement appeared anywhere within scores of miles, but of course there ought to be a settlement — with a post-office — in such an eligible site, and naturally it should take its name from the lake. So Reade sat down and carefully addressed a postal as follows:

JOHN W. WATSON,
VERMILION LAKE,
SHERIDAN COUNTY,
MINNESOTA, U. S. A.

Why he wrote Watson at all — much less John W. — he did not know then and does not know now. He never knew personally a Watson, and never has, to this day. But telepathy antedates wireless telegraphy, However, Reade was seeking for no explanation, occult or otherwise, of this choice of a name, but was intent only at the time on the composition of his missive to the unknown Watson, which finally took this form:

TILTON HALL, Albany, N. Y., June 5, 1874.

My Dear Watson:

Don't forget your promise to find a good vein for me. I shall reach your place in the spring of '84, with tools, powder and provisions. Have boats ready for me.

Your true friend, GEORGE A. READE.

Young Reade's mind was full of mines and mining, and, knowing nothing to the contrary, he assumed all the rocks in the region selected to be metalliferous. So he gloated over the puzzle which he supposed this absurd card would afford to numerous postal clerks and postmasters, not imagining that they would read nothing but the addressed side. He was educated, of course, above the grade of those who address acquaintance and stranger alike as "friend," and he could not have told why he employed that form, unless it were an unconscious assumption of the inferior social rank of his mythical correspondent. However, Reade dropped his card, the last of the kind he ever wrote, in the nearest mail box, and soon forgot all about it.

In 1877 he had completed his course in this preparatory school and entered a scientific institution, from which he was graduated in due course as a mining engineer. The first position he obtained was not a particularly promising one, but he was soon sent West on a fair salary, and now fully embarked on a career in which practice speedily displaced theory, he was here, there and everywhere among Western mining camps.

In June, 1884, George Reade arrived in Denver, and found there awaiting him a quantity of mail matter, including a letter from his mother, enclosing a postal card addressed to him at Albany, forwarded by the principal of his old preparatory school. It read:

vermflion lake may 25 1884

dear george

theIce is gone out of the lake some time why aint you come yet I have everything allready. Come quick bring powder and grub plees hurry up

your Friend J W WATSON

Reade was mystified. He read the card twice, looked at the address again, saw that it surely was directed to him, and finally threw it into the waste basket, being unable to decide whether it was simply a mistake or a joke.

Two or three weeks later his mother enclosed him a second postal card in the same hand as the first. It said:

for gods sake come soon if you dont some of these fellers may jump it and i am stone broke. I tell you the show is a good one and nobody is on to it but me
your friend JOHN

"Well," thought Reade, "this is *odd*." In vain he cudgelled his memory. He knew no one of the name of Watson, had no familiar "friend" John, and had made no agreement to go anywhere, with anybody. So he threw his second card away.

Ten days later came a third card, enclosed in an enquiry from Reade's mother as to what it all meant. The third card ran as follows:

if you dont come why dont you rite be you sick I tell you this wont keep much longer and the winter comes early here

This was too much for Reade. The distress of the writer seemed so genuine that he couldn't help feeling sorry for him, and yet he disliked very much being troubled with the lamentations of this unknown Jeremiah. "Where is Vermilion Lake, anyhow?" he wondered, as with cross words he tore up the puzzling communication.

By this time midsummer had arrived, and George went East on a vacation, well pleased with his Western successes, and eager to talk again with family and friends. Among the latter were two or three schoolmates, and they recalled old times with almost boyish interest. As he lit his pipe one evening one of them suddenly exclaimed:

"Do you remember our postal card craze? I believe I wrote cards to Bismarck and the King of Siam. What a funny freak it was!"

"Yes," replied George, "it seemed so ridiculously cheap in those days to send the equivalent of a letter — stamp, stationery and all — for a single cent. But I remember I always wrote my bogus epistles in the innocent supposition that they would be eagerly read by every postal employee who handled them. What kids we were!"

But when his friends had gone Reade's mind continued to dwell on this particular phase of boyhood's freaks, and in thinking of postal cards he could not dismiss from recollection his mysterious correspondent, Watson, and the desire to know the location of Vermilion Lake grew upon him. Taking down a Gazetteer, he found that there were a number of Vermilion Lakes but that he had never been near any of them. Obviously, he thought, he was not the Reade wanted by somebody somewhere, and so he shut the book and went to bed.

The next morning one of George's sisters brought in the mail. It contained still another card from "Watson," directed this time to his home and not, as the previous ones had been, to the school. The writer said:

why didnt you write me you had moved. mebbe you didnt get my other letters I am getting pretty low in grub so hurry up the boys all think I am crazey writing for you to come be quick and fetch lots of grub i have the vein alright.

your friend J W WATSON

Reade's puzzle was renewed. He could make nothing of it. He had seen from the first that his correspondent was uneducated, but now when he studied the shaky writing it occurred to him that its sinuosities might be the result of the tremor of age. He regretted that he had not answered one of the previous cards, addressing it at random to Vermilion Lake, as a line would suffice to inform Watson that his communications were going to the wrong Reade. He resolved to write that very day, but forgot it altogether in some diversions planned by his sisters, and the matter did not surmount the threshold of consciousness again till he had returned to the West and the mail from home brought him a reminder in this shape:

for gods sake what is the matter why dont you come i am starving and you promised you would come last spring sure if you dont come soon it will be to late I cant hang on alone much longer minnesoty winters begin early

Here was a practical hint which Reade now lost no time in following up. He wrote at once to Vermilion Lake, Minnesota — not on a postal card — informing Watson that he had received a number of cards from him evidently intended for some other Reade, and regretting that he had not been able to notify him sooner. This salved his conscience, and he supposed he had

heard the last of his unknown correspondent. But not long afterward he received the following:

dear gorge
not much i aint made no mistake didnt you rite me in '74 you would be here in the spring of '84 I have waited to long now winter is not far off bring six months grub i am half ded. your Frend
J W WATSON

This was really astounding, and Reade could not get the matter out of his head, day or night. Who could this mysterious Watson be, and why was he afflicted with his disappointments? Procuring a Postal Guide, George found that there actually was a Vermilion Lake, Minnesota, and going to a map he looked up its exact location. While doing so his mind half-consciously reverted to his recent conversation with his schoolmates and traveled back to the days they had recalled, and in a flash, the resurrection of a long dormant memory, came a recollection of that last boyish postal card, written to some imaginary person ten years before, and he realized that he was the right George A. Reade, to whom all those puzzling cards had been written! What an absurd, thoughtless prank it had been, and now it had resulted in causing trouble, and apparently actual suffering, to a fellow-being of whose very existence he had been ignorant when he first wrote.

Full of contrition, he now wrote, explaining at length the circumstances under which the first card was written by a mere boy, expressing deep regret, and enquiring what he could do to make amends and especially why Watson seemed so eager to see him.

He was now deeply interested, and awaited with impatience a reply. From Watson's previous importunity he had expected promptness in this instance, but instead there was a long interval of silence. Then there came a rather official-looking document, bearing very distinctly the Vermilion Lake post-office stamp. It proved to be from the postmaster himself, and stated that John W. Watson had died there, after an illness of several weeks, leaving all his property to George A. Reade, but that all his visible effects consisted of an old rifle, a canoe and some papers whose contents were unknown. Enough had been realized from the sale of these few assets to defray funeral expenses, with the exception of a balance of $4.50. Would Mr. Reade please remit that

amount? Watson, the writer stated, had always spoken of Reade as the only friend he had in the world, and was always expecting a visit from him. The postmaster added that he feared the old man had really starved to death, having all summer, though too old to hunt or fish much, refused several offers of assistance, saying that his friend Reade was coming soon and would see him through.

George Reade dropped his work, and took the first train to a point where he could catch a stage for Vermilion Lake. Forty mile of rough riding took him to a collection of twenty or thirty log shanties, where the storekeeper's sign directed him to the post-office. A short, stout man came forward when that official was asked for, and to him Reade told his errand, and asked about Watson.

"We-l-l," said he, "John was a pecooliar cuss. Never knowed him, you say? He was mortal fond of you — never stopped talkin' 'bout you these last ten years. He had a camp up the lake here, 'bout nine miles, and would mostly paddle down Saturday nights and set here talkin' 'bout you. Couldn't talk 'bout nothin' else, I guess. Said you was the only friend he ever had. He'd no family — said they was all dead — and that no man ever called him a friend but you; that is, outside of some of us fellers, but guess we didn't count. He wanted to see you pretty bad ever sence last May — used to expect you every week, almost. Finally, 'bout last June, he came down here and stayed till he died. Said you was due every day, and used to write you postal cards. Said they was the best thing this government ever did — showed they thought of the poor man sometimes.

"We-l-l, toward the last he slept here, when he didn't sleep out, and he got lower and lower. Made me swear I would keep some papers he had and give 'em to you when you did come. Here they are. He had a hard time writin' 'em. He got pretty thin, and petered out after that. I sold his outfit, but kept them papers. No good, I suppose? Some of the boys thought he was sort of off in his head, but he wasn't — just queer. Yes, thank you, $4.50, that's right. He said you'd make up anythin' short. Wasn't any relation, you say?"

"No," answered Reade, "just a friend."

The "papers" consisted of a few sheets of white wrapping paper, such as storekeepers use, laboriously covered with pencil writing, in a large, cramped hand. The one of greatest immediate interest to Reade was as follows:

Dear george

I cant last any longer you oughter came in the spring you was the only friend i ever had I kept yure card and waited & mebbe i waited to long the iron is there & you can find it all right by following up back of my place to the big pine with the X blaze then go N E about 100 rod to a big rock covered with moss you cant miss it. then go East 20 rod to a bull pine then N to where the ledge crops out and foller it este to the big birch it aint fur off about 50 feat you wil find it shure Put in a blast or too i was on my last legs i knew the stuff was there but I had no money and grub is high all my Famly is ded it is all yourn you was the only friend I had on erth that is exept the boys who said i was crazy Why didnt you come in the spring i rote you six times I hope you aint sick as i am and the grub give out

Your frend

J W WATSON

Beneath this farewell letter were papers fully establishing Watson's homestead and mineral claims, and last of all was the postal card which Reade had written him when a boy. His eyes were moist and his lip trembled when he laid aside the packet.

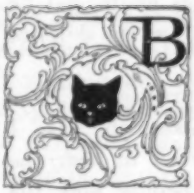
. . . . . .

Have you seen the Watson Hospital, on a high, breezy bluff, overlooking the dancing waters of Lake Superior? Yes, it cost a large sum. George A. Reade paid the bills, but he says he did it with John W. Watson's money. Perhaps you also noticed the Old Miners' Home, near by? That was paid for, too, with Watson's money, or, at least, with the proceeds of the iron ore he found and guarded so faithfully. Reade declares he only worked the vein when it was too late to do Watson any good.

Reade's eldest boy is named Watson — John Watson Reade. They call him Watson for short. But George A. Reade will not tolerate a postal card, in his home, at his office, or about his business in any way, and it gives him a heartache when he sees one.

The Gratitude of Mrs. Hatch.*

BY G. B. DUNHAM.



EN MORRISON, the big bluffer of the sheriff's office, with his understudy, the junior deputy, was sent out into the country, a matter of fifty miles or so, to make an arrest on an indictment for rustling cattle. He brought in his man alive, but unconscious, pretty well bruised, and with a dent in his occiput about the size and shape of the butt of the deputy's revolver.

Now, the sheriff's office had been down on its luck all summer, and it was of a piece with the rest that the Grand Jury, just then in annual session, instead of commending the success of Morrison, should listen instead to the prosecuting attorney and to a witness whom he hurried in from the back country, and find a true bill against Benjamin Morrison and William Judd, "that they did, upon the said 25th day of August, assault with intent to kill one Job Hatch, contrary to the law in such cases made and provided, and against the peace and dignity of the Commonwealth aforesaid." The sole remaining deputy turned the key upon his associates, and for a time the sheriff's office was wofully short-handed, for the chief said, "If the public rather pay my men for keeping the jail full in that way, it's all the same to me, and less trouble, but I'll not appoint another man."

The incarcerated deputies were indignant, but not alarmed. They had, on their return, given a straightforward account of the circumstances attending the injury to Hatch, which statement they repeated without deviation at the trial. The sheriff said the thing was a dirty political trick of the county attorney. The attorney said he was sure of securing a conviction, and the prosecuting witness, pending the trial, said nothing. There were no dilatory motions from either side — in fact both urged a speedy

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trial — and the case came up within ten days after the indictment. During this interval the condition of the unfortunate man at the hospital was unchanged. He lay unconscious and without speech. His wife never left him but when she went before the jury, and her name appeared upon the indictment as prosecuting witness.

Morrison and Judd scarcely recognized the gravity of their situation until they were brought into court upon the day of trial. That it was to be no perfunctory prosecution was evidenced by the attendance of an eminent attorney, "imported," as the defence phrased it, "to hamstring the jury."

The jury being finally secured by the usual practice of carefully excluding everybody who knew anything about the case, I found myself one of the twelve men duly sworn to hear the evidence and true judgment give between the people and the prisoners at the bar. Then the visiting lawyer with the keen eye and the soft voice, whose habit it was to work jurors as the potter works his clay, gave us his opening statement.

"Gentlemen," he said, "I should not be in this case at all but for a woman's tears. A great wrong has been done. You cannot right it — no one can. What you can do, and what we expect you to do, is to punish the wrong-doers. We shall prove to you that the officers went to the house of this poor man, sought a quarrel with him, beat him unmercifully and brought him down here to die. We shall prove this by his wife, who saw it, whose presence did not deter these ruffians, whose tears at length prevailed on me to prosecute this suit."

Replying to this opening, the defence said to the jury: "In a neighboring city a big brick block, some twelve stories high, bears the name of the opposing counsel. It was not built with woman's tears. The twenty farms he owns were never bought with tears. He works for cash only, and in advance, and in this instance the cash comes from the coffers of a political committee. We shall show that the unfortunate man was hurt by an accident resulting from his own bad temper, and to which the defendants were not in any manner contributory."

After the evidence of the attending surgeon, who declined to swear that the blow was or was not struck with a revolver, Mrs. Hatch was put on the stand. Her story was this: Only one man

came to her house — Morrison. He found Hatch at home, and, without showing his papers or stating his business, interfered with the ranchman's treatment of a vicious cow. Hatch was unarmed and no physical match for Morrison. After some altercation he ran toward the house; Morrison overtook him and felled him with a blow on the back of the head.

Upon cross-examination Mrs. Hatch contradicted herself in some minor matters and broke down. But she was solid as a rock on the main fact — that her husband was struck down by the officer. Throughout her testimony Morrison gave the closest attention, and, if I could read the expression on his face, it was one of doubt and surprise. He looked not like a man hearing the faithful account of his own misdeed, but as if he were hearing a shocking story for the first time. I made a mental note in Morrison's favor, but later, when he himself testified, I rubbed it out and went over to the woman's side.

The court will always caution jurors against coming to a conclusion before the evidence is in. But in this case I came to several, all of them erroneous, in the course of the trial.

The testimony of Morrison and Judd was as different as possible from that of Mrs. Hatch. According to their statement, which the ingenuity of opposing counsel tried in vain to break or shake, they had not reached Hatch's house when they met him in the road. In a country where every man knows and values a good horse they had at once noticed the fine mount of Hatch, and had engaged him in a conversation which ultimated in a horse race, with twenty dollars up, between Hatch and Judd.

"I'll give you a good beating," shouted Hatch, as Morrison started them down a strip of level highway. But his fine-looking horse was just a bit too fat to go up against Judd's wiry bronco, and he was beaten by a short length. Seeing which, Hatch hit his horse upon the head with the quirt, causing him to rear and fall upon his rider.

That was the whole story the men had to tell — succinct, complete, but not convincing. Over and over, on cross-examination it was repeated by both men like a well learned lesson. Looking and listening I make up my mind that this evidence was false; *ergo*, the woman's was true.

After the arguments of counsel and the verbal fireworks of the imported lawyer, who never made arguments, but always and everywhere stump-speeches, the learned judge charged us at great length to find the defendants guilty if they were guilty, and not guilty it they were innocent, and we were locked up.

In the jury room Judd, of course, was acquitted on the first ballot. The feeling was strong, but not unanimous, against Morrison. He had a friend or two who were stout in his defence. They urged that Morrison might kill a man on occasion — had done so perhaps — but never from behind.

There was much argument and no agreement until, late in the evening, contrary to every rule of law and in contempt of court, some new evidence was submitted to the jury. It came in the form of a note to me from my friend the doctor, shoved under the door of the jury room behind the bailiff's back. It read as follows:

GEORGE: — At noon to-day Dr. Marston and myself operated on Job Hatch. It was only one chance in a hundred that the man would stand it, but as he could not possibly recover without it, we took that chance, and lost. He died within an hour. After trepanning he spoke a number of words indicating excitement. The only connected sentence was, "I'll give you a good beating." I thought you ought to know.

WILL.

Those were exactly the words testified as used by Hatch at the alleged horse-race, and the note, thrown into the scale of conflicting opinion in the jury, turned the balance in favor of Morrison, and he also was acquitted.

. . . . . .

In another part of the West, years later, I made a long wagon journey with Morrison. I came to know his brave nature well, and proved his worth on many occasions. One night, under the summer stars, when the camp-fires burned low, I said to him without prelude,

"Ben, who killed Job Hatch?"

After a silence, "His wife."

"Are you sure?"

"I saw it. I went out there to arrest him and he was beating his wife. As I rode up she grabbed the gun from his holster and hit him. It was a chance blow, but the woman was frenzied and it felled him like an ox. He got about what he deserved and I

told the woman that I'd see her through. Of course, any jury would have cleared her on the facts, but she had been a girl well connected and said she'd rather die than have her people know. So I did what I did."

"But," I cried, "what was the occasion for her bad faith? Why did she try to fasten the deed on you?"

After another pause and the lighting of another pipe Ben replied slowly: "I don't know. I have tried to follow a good many trails into a woman's mind, but they are always blind trails. They lead nowhere. My guess is that she tried to do me up because I went there to arrest her husband for a thief. No sooner was he gone than she began to idealize him, and she was as fierce against me in his defence as she had been against him in her own. That's my guess, but all I absolutely know is that she seemed very grateful to me for my promise to shield her. And two days after I got the worst jolt of my life when I was locked up to answer her charges."

"You must have known before the trial came on," said I, "what the woman meant to testify. Why not then have given the court the facts? Why did you stand by her in spite of herself?"

No answer.

I wanted to get from him an avowal that he thought he had done a brave and generous thing.

"Supposing you had been convicted on her testimony?" I persisted.

But Morrison only said quietly, "Then you would be making this journey alone."

Ely's Automatic Housemaid.*

BY ELIZABETH W. BELLAMY.

IN order for a man to have faith in such an invention, he would have to know Harrison Ely. For Harrison Ely was a genius. I had known him in college, a man amazingly dull in Latin and Greek and even in English, but with ideas of his own that could not be expressed in language. His bent was purely mechanical, and found expression in innumerable ingenious contrivances to facilitate the study to which he had no inclination. His self-acting lexicon-holder was a matter of admiring wonder to his classmates, but it did not serve to increase the tenacity of his mental grasp upon the contents of the volume, and so did little to recommend him to the faculty. And his self-feeding safety student-lamp admirably illuminated everything for him save the true and only path to an honorable degree.

It had been years since I had seen him or thought of him, but the memory is tenacious of small things, and the big yellow envelope which I found one morning awaiting me upon my breakfast-table brought his eccentric personality back to me with a rush. It was addressed to me in the Archimedean script always so characteristic of him, combining, as it seemed to do, the principles of the screw and of the inclined plane, and in its superscription Harrison Ely stood unmistakably revealed.

It was the first morning of a new cook, the latest potentate of a dynasty of ten who had briefly ruled in turn over our kitchen and ourselves during the preceding three months, and successively abdicated in favor of one another under the compelling influences of popular clamor, and in the face of such a political crisis my classmate's letter failed to receive immediate attention. Unfortunately but not unexpectedly the latest occupant of our

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culinary throne began her reign with no conspicuous reforms, and we received in gloomy silence her preliminary enactments in the way of greasy omelette and turbid and flavorless coffee, the yellow screed of Harrison Ely looking on the while with bilious sympathy as it leaned unopened against the water-bottle beside me.

As I drained the last medicinal drop of coffee my eye fell upon it, and needing a vicarious outlet for my feelings toward the cook, I seized it and tore it viciously open. It contained a letter from my classmate and half a dozen printed circulars. I spread open the former, and my eye fastened at once upon this sympathetic exordium:

"Doubtless, my dear friend, you have known what discomfort it is to be at the mercy of incompetent domestics —"

But my attention was distracted at this point by one of the circulars, which displayed an array of startling, cheering, alluring words, followed by plentiful exclamation points, that, like a bunch of keys, opened to my enraptured vision the gates of a terrestrial Paradise, where Bridgets should be no more, and where ill-cooked meals should become a mechanical impossibility. The boon we had been sighing for now presented itself for my acceptance, an accomplished fact. Harrison Ely had invented "An Automatic Household Beneficent Genius. — A Practical Realization of the Fabled Familiar of the Middle Ages." So the circular set forth.

Returning to the letter, I read that Harrison Ely, having exhausted his means in working out his invention, was unable to manufacture his "machine" in quantity as yet; but that he had just two on hand which he would sell in order to raise some ready money. He hoped that I would buy one of his automatons, and aid him to sell the other.

Never did a request come at a more propitious moment. I had always entertained a kindness for Harrison Ely, and now such was my disgust at the incompetence of Bridget and Juliana and their predecessors that I was eager to stake the price of a "Household Beneficent Genius" on the success of my friend's invention.

So, having grasped the purport of the circulars and letter, I broke forth to my wife:

"My dear, you've heard me speak of Harrison Ely —"

"That man who is always so near doing something great, and never *has* done anything?" said she.

"He has done it at last!" I declared. "Harrison Ely is one of the greatest geniuses the world has ever seen. He has invented an 'Automatic-Electric Machine-Servant.'"

My wife said, "Oh!"

There was not an atom of enthusiasm in that "Oh!" but I was not to be daunted.

"I am ready," I resumed, "to invest my bottom dollar in *two* of Harrison Ely's machine-servants."

Her eyes were fixed upon me as if they would read my very soul. "What do they cost?" she mildly asked.

"In comparison with the benefits to be derived, little enough. Listen!" I seized a circular at random, and began to read:

"The Automatic Household Genius, a veritable Domestic Fairy, swift, silent, sure; a Permanent, Inalienable, First-class Servant, warranted to give Satisfaction."

"Ah!" said my wife; and the enthusiasm that was lacking in the "Oh!" made itself eloquent in that "Ah!" "What is the price?" she asked again.

"The price is all right, and we are going to try the experiment."

"Are we though?" said she, between doubt and desire.

"Most assuredly; it will be a saving in the end. I shall write to Harrison Ely this very night."

The return mail brought me a reply stating that two Electric-Automatic Household Beneficent Geniuses had been shipped me by express. The letter enclosed a pamphlet that gave a more particular account of the E. A. H. B. G. than the circulars contained. My friend's invention was shaped in the likeness of the human figure, with body, head, arms, legs, hands and feet. It was clad in waterproof cloth, with a hood of the same to protect the head, and was shod with felt. The trunk contained the wheels and springs, and in the head was fixed the electric battery. The face, of bisque, was described as possessing "a very natural and pleasing expression."

Just at dusk an oblong box arrived by express and was duly delivered in our hall, but at my wife's urgent entreaty I consented not to unpack the machines until next day.

"If we should not get the knack of managing them, they might give us trouble," said this wise wife of mine.

I agreed to this, and having sent away Bridget with a week's wages, to the satisfaction of all parties, we went to bed in high hopes.

Early next morning we were astir.

"My dear," I said, "do not give yourself the least concern about breakfast; I am determined that Harrison's invention shall have fair play."

"Very well," my wife assented; but she prudently administered bread and butter to her offspring.

I opened the oblong box, where lay the automatons side by side, their hands placidly folded upon their waterproof breasts, and their eyes looking placidly expectant from under their waterproof hoods.

I confess the sight gave me a shock. Anna Maria turned pale; the children hid their faces in her skirts.

"Once out of the box," I said to myself, "and the horror will be over."

The machines stood on their feet admirably, but the horror was not materially lessened by this change of position. However, I assumed a bold front, and said, jocosely:

"Now, which is Bridget, and which is Juliana — which the cook, and which the housemaid?"

This distinction was made clear by dial-plates and indicators, set conspicuously between the shoulders, an opening being cut in the waterproof for that purpose. The housemaid's dial-plate was stamped around the circumference with the words: Bed, Broom, Duster, Door-bell, Dining-room Service, Parlor Service, etc. In like manner, the cook's dial-plate bore the words that pertained to her department. I gave myself first to "setting" the housemaid, as being the simpler of the two.

"Now, my dear," said I, confidently, "we shall see how *this* Juliana can make the beds."

I proceeded, according to the pamphlet's directions, to point the indicator to the word "Bed." Next, as there were three beds to be made, I pushed in three of the five little red points surrounding the word. Then I set the "clock" connected with the indica-

tor, for a thirty minutes' job, thinking it might take about ten minutes to a bed. I did not consult my wife, for women do not understand machinery, and any suggestion of hesitancy on my part would have demoralized her.

The last thing to be done was to connect the indicator with the battery, a simple enough performance in itself, but the pamphlet of directions gave a repeated and red-lettered "CAUTION," never to interfere with the machine while it was at work! I therefore issued the command, "Non-combatants to the rear!" and was promptly obeyed.

What happened next I do not pretend to account for. By what subtle and mysterious action of electricity, by what unerring affinity, working through a marvellous mechanism, that Electric-Automatic Household Beneficent Genius, whom — or which, for short — we called Juliana, sought its appropriate task, is the inventor's secret. I don't undertake to explain, I merely narrate. With a "click" the connection was made, and the new Juliana *went up-stairs* at a brisk and business-like pace.

We followed in breathless amazement. In less than five minutes, bed number one was made, and in a twinkling the second was taken in hand, and number three also was fairly accomplished, long before the allotted thirty minutes had expired. By this time, familiarity had somewhat dulled that awe and wonder with which we had gaped upon the first performance, and I beheld a smile of hopeful satisfaction on my wife's anxious countenance.

Our youngest, a boy aged three, was quick to feel the genial influence of this smile, and encouraged thereby, he bounced into the middle of the first bed. Hardly had he alighted there, when our automaton, having finished making the third bed, returned to her first job, and, before we could imagine mischief, the mattresses were jerked about, and the child was tumbled, headforemost on the floor!

Had the flesh-and-blood Juliana been guilty of such an act, she should have been dismissed on the spot; but, as it was, no one of us ventured so much as a remonstrance. My wife lifted the screaming child, and the imperturbable machine went on to re-adjust the bed with mechanical exactitude.

At this point a wild shout of mingled exultation, amazement and

terror arose from below, and we hastened down-stairs to find our son John hugging his elbows and capering frantically in front of the kitchen-door, where the electric cook was stirring empty nothing in a pan, with a zeal worthy a dozen eggs.

My eldest hopeful, impelled by that spirit of enterprise and audacity characteristic of nine-year-old boys, had ventured to experiment with the kitchen automaton, and by sheer accident had effected a working connection between the battery and the indicator, and the machine, in "going off," had given the boy a blow that made him feel, as he expressed it, "like a funny-bone all over."

"And served you right!" cried I. The thing was set for an hour and a half of work, according to the showing of the dial-plate, and no chance to stop it before I must leave for my office. Had the materials been supplied, we might have had breakfast; but, remembering the red-lettered "CAUTION," we dared not supply materials while that indefatigable spoon was gyrating in the empty pan. For my distraction, Kitty, my daughter of seven years, now called to me from up-stairs:

"Papa, you *better* come, quick! *It's* a-tearin' up these beds!"

"My dear," I sighed, "there's no way to stop it. We'll have to wait for the works to run down. I must call Harrison's attention to this defect. He ought to provide some sort of brake."

We went up-stairs again. The B. G. Juliana stood beside the bed which she had just torn up for the sixth or seventh time, when suddenly she became, so to speak, paralyzed; her arms, in the act of spreading the sheets, dropped by her sides, her back stiffened, and she stood absolutely motionless, leaving her job unfinished — the B. G. would move no more until duly "set" again.

I now discovered that I was hungry. "If that Fiend in the kitchen were only at work about something substantial, instead of whipping the air into imaginary omelettes!" I groaned.

"Never mind," said my wife; "I've a pot of coffee on the kerosene stove."

Bless her! She was worth a thousand Beneficent Geniuses, and so I told her.

I did not return until late, but I was in good spirits, and I greeted my wife gayly:

"Well, how do they work?"

"*Like fiends!*" my usually placid helpmeet replied, so vehemently that I was alarmed. "They flagged at first," she proceeded, excitedly, "and I oiled them, which *I* am not going to do, ever again. According to the directions, I poured the oil down their throats. It was horrible! They seemed to me to *drink it greedily*."

"Nonsense! That's your imagination."

"Very well," said Anna Maria. "You can do the oiling in future. They took a good deal this morning; it wasn't easy to stop pouring it down. And they worked — *obstreperously*. That Fiend in the kitchen has cooked all the provisions I am going to supply *this* day, but still she goes on, and it's no use to say a word."

"Don't be absurd," I remonstrated. "The thing is only a machine."

"I'm not so sure about that!" she retorted. "As for the other one — I set it sweeping, and it is sweeping still!"

We ate the dinner prepared by the kitchen Fiend, and really, I was tempted to compliment the cook in a set speech, but recollected myself in time to spare Anna Maria the triumph of saying, "I told you so!"

Now, that John of mine, still in pursuit of knowledge, had spent the day studying Harrison Ely's pamphlet, and he learned that the machines could be set, like an alarm-clock, for any given hour. Therefore, as soon as the Juliana had collapsed over a pile of dust in the middle of the hall, John, unknown to us, set her indicator to the broom-handle for seven o'clock the following morning. When the Fiend in the kitchen ran down, leaving everything in confusion, my much-tried wife persuaded me to give my exclusive attention to that machine, and the Juliana was put safely in a corner. Thus it happened that John's interference escaped detection. I set Bridget's indicator for kitchen-cleaning at seven-thirty the next morning.

"When we understand them better," I said to my wife, "we will set their morning tasks for an earlier hour, but we won't put it too early now, since we must first learn their ways."

"That's the trouble with all new servants," said Anna Maria.

The next morning at seven-thirty, precisely, we were awakened by a commotion in the kitchen.

"By George Washington!" I exclaimed. "The Thing's on time!"

I needed no urging to make me forsake my pillow, but Anna Maria was ahead of me.

"Now, my dear, don't get excited," I exhorted, but in vain.

"Don't you hear?" she whispered, in terror. "*The other one!* — swe — eep — ing!" And she darted from the room.

I paused to listen, and heard the patter of three pairs of little bare feet across the hall up-stairs. The children were following their mother. The next sound I heard was like the dragging of a rug along the floor. I recognized this peculiar sound as the footsteps of the B. G. Then came a dull thud, mingled with a shout from Johnnie, a scream from my wife, and the terrified cries of the two younger children. I rushed out just in time to see John, in his night-clothes, with his hair on end, tear down-stairs like a streak of lightning. My little Kitty and the three-year-old baby stood clasped in each other's arms at the head of the stairs, sobbing in terror, and, half-way down, was my wife, leaning over the railing, with ashen face and rigid body, her fascinated gaze fixed upon a dark and struggling mass in the hall below.

John, when he reached the bottom of the stairs, began capering like a goat gone mad, digging the floor with his bare heels, clapping his hands with an awful glee, and shouting:

"Bet your bottom dollar on the one that whips!"

The Juliana and the Bridget were fighting for the broom!

I comprehended the situation intuitively. The kitchen-cleaning, for which the Fiend had been "set," had reached a point that demanded the broom, and that subtle, attractive affinity, which my friend's genius had known how to produce, but had not learned to regulate, impelled the unerring automaton towards the only broom in the house, which was now in the hands of its fellow-automaton, and a struggle was inevitable. What I could not understand — Johnnie having kept his own counsel — was this uncontrollable sweeping impulse that possessed the Juliana.

However, this was no time for investigating the exact cause of the terrific row now going on in our front hall. The Beneficent Geniuses had each a firm grip of the broom-handle, and they might have performed the sweeping very amicably together, could

they but have agreed as to the field of labor, but their conflicting tendencies on this point brought about a rotary motion that sent them spinning around the hall, and kept them alternately cracking each other's head with a violence that ought to have drawn blood. Considering their life-likeness, we should hardly have thought it strange if blood *had* flowed, and it would have been a relief had the combatants but called each other names, so much did their dumbness intensify the horror of a struggle, in the midst of which the waterproof hoods fell off, revealing their startlingly human countenances, not distorted by angry passions, but resolute, inexorable, calm, as though each was sustained in the contest by a lofty sense of duty.

"They're alive! Kill 'em! Kill 'em, quick!" shrieked my wife, as the gyrating couple moved towards the stair-case.

"Let 'em alone," said Johnnie — his sporting blood, which he inherits from his father, thoroughly roused — dancing about the automatic pugilists in delight, and alternately encouraging the one or the other to increased efforts.

Thus the fight went on with appalling energy and reckless courage on both sides, my wife wringing her hands upon the stair-case, our infants wailing in terror upon the landing above, and I wavering between an honest desire to see fair play and an apprehensive dread of consequences which was not unjustified.

In one of their frantic gyrations the figures struck the hat-rack and promptly converted it into a mass of splinters. In a minute more they became involved with a rubber plant — the pride of my wife's heart — and distributed it impartially all over the premises. From this they caromed against the front door, wrecking both its stained-glass panes, and then down the length of the hall they sped again, fighting fiercely and dealing one another's imperturbable countenances ringing blows with the disputed broom.

We became aware through Johnnie's excited comments, that Juliana had lost an ear in the fray, and presently it was discernible that a fractured nose had somewhat modified the set geniality of expression that had distinguished Bridget's face in its prime.

How this fierce and equal combat would have culminated if further prolonged no one but Harrison Ely can conjecture, but it came to an abrupt termination as the parlor clock chimed eight,

the hour when the two automatons should have completed their appointed tasks.

Though quite late at my office that morning, I wired Ely before attending to business. Long-haired, gaunt and haggard, but cheerful as ever, he arrived next day, on fire with enthusiasm. He could hardly be persuaded to refresh himself with a cup of coffee before he took his two recalcitrant Geniuses in hand. It was curious to see him examine each machine, much as a physician would examine a patient. Finally his brow cleared, he gave a little puff of satisfaction, and exclaimed:

"Why, man alive, there's nothing the matter — not a thing! What you consider a defect is really a merit — merely a surplus of mental energy. They've had too big a dose of oil. Few housekeepers have any idea about proper lubrication," and he emitted another little snort, at which my wife colored guiltily.

"I see just what's wanted," he resumed. "The will-power generated and not immediately expended becomes cumulative and gets beyond control. I'll introduce a little compensator, to take up the excess and regulate the flow. Then a child can operate them."

It was now Johnnie's turn to blush.

"Ship 'em right back to the factory, and we'll have 'em all right in a few days. I see where the mechanism can be greatly improved, and when you get 'em again I know you'll never consent to part with 'em!"

. . . . . .

That was four months ago. The "Domestic Fairies" have not yet been returned from Harrison's laboratory, but I am confidently looking for the familiar oblong packing case, and expect any day to see in the papers the prospectus of the syndicate which Ely informs me is being "promoted" to manufacture his automatic housemaid.

The Curse of Zulma Rebya.*

BY RHETA CHILDE DORR.

N the latter half of the thirties, at the court of Louis Philippe, the democratic atmosphere brought by the "Citizen King" from his American sojourn was voted by old courtiers — especially the ladies — a very unsatisfactory substitute for the manners that went out when Charles X. departed into exile and the last traditions of the old régime went with him.

Sometimes there were fêtes, which bad management more often than not converted into fiascos — in the opinion of the Faubourg Saint Germain — but there were those whom they amused and who could laugh with as well as at the fatuous monarch. Among them was Lady Florence Brooke, whose father — one of the most efficient statesmen of his day in England — was then in Paris on an important and delicate mission.

"I vow, cousin," she said, the morning after one of these incongruous gatherings, to Capt. Arbuthnot, a dashing young attaché, "I am in love with His Majesty. He is the only man in Paris who makes me laugh."

"The King is rather quaint at times," agreed the captain. "But I hope, for all that, dear Florence, you will not be tempted to laugh audibly."

"Never fear, I know why my father was sent here, and it will not be my fault if his mission fails."

"I am sorry you are so bored, my cousin," resumed the young Englishman, "but there are some amusing people in society besides the King. And that reminds me of some one who is anxious to be presented to you — none other than the renowned Count Abbas."

"And who is he — an Arab?"

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"An Egyptian — or, rather, a pure-blooded Turk. He is one of those whom old Mehemet Ali chose in carrying out his peculiarly Oriental scheme for the civilization of Egypt. He selected three hundred youths from good families, many of them from the very highest nobility, and sent them here to Europe, to be educated as engineers, naval officers, physicians and mechanics. When they came back he had them all clapped into prison, and there they were obliged to stop until they had translated their text-books into Arabic. Then some of them were released, but the majority were turned into schoolmasters. Awful degradation to an Oriental, you know.

"Well, this chap, this Abbas — he has a jolly lot of names and titles, but we call him simply Count Abbas — was of the famous three hundred. He somehow got wind of the scheme, and very sensibly failed to return with the others. So he's a Parisian now, and upon my word he isn't a bad one. He's immensely rich, as clever as Lucifer, and no end popular at the clubs. May I present him? He might interest you."

"I wish Mehemet Ali were here!" cried Lady Florence. "I should adore him. But in his default I think the count may do."

Capt. Arbuthnot took his leave, well pleased to have been a little useful to his fair kinswoman. He hoped, some day, when he should inherit his title, to become indispensable to her.

He was not the only man who aspired to so much distinction, for Lady Florence Brooke was a very beautiful woman. She was also very brilliant, a combination not frequently encountered. In conclusion, she was selfish, which is commoner.

It ought to be said, in her behalf, that every formative influence, every detail of her education, had been such as to cultivate selfishness in even less promising soil. From childhood she had been encouraged to believe herself infinitely above others of her sex, both in beauty and intellect. Flattered, deferred to, consulted and confided in by her father and his friends, she had early attained an elevation of self-esteem which was far too lofty to be styled mere vanity.

After his first disappointment that he had a daughter instead of a son, her father resolved to make the motherless girl what he conceived to be a perfect woman.

In his own opinion — and in hers — he had been completely successful. She knew mathematics like a Senior Wrangler, Latin like a cardinal, and her beautiful lips rolled honeyed Greek like a reincarnated Helen.

By the time she entered society she was quite satisfied that she was superior, by virtue of personality, to any and all rank.

She was now six-and-twenty, and unmarried, despite offers.

"The thing is simply this, Papa," explained the young woman, "I intend to become a model for wives as soon as the man appears whom I thoroughly respect, and who never bores me. As yet I have not found the two qualifications embodied in one individual."

Haply this was repeated to Capt. Arbuthnot. At all events the day after he had presented Count Abbas, the Egyptian approached him and said: "My dear Arbuthnot, if you will tell me how to please your houri of a cousin, I promise to smuggle you into the paradise of true believers, hereafter!"

"Why, my dear chap," answered the attaché seriously, "nothing is easier. In the first place you must amuse her! And if you can't do that, impress her! If you should succeed in doing both — well, in that case you would certainly prove yourself an all-around man."

Count Abbas did not, at first, succeed in doing either. Lady Florence was disappointed to find him so little out of the common. His complexion was no swarthier than many a Frenchman's, although his hair and beard were of a peculiar blue-black seldom seen in Europe, and he had the soft, dull eyes of an Oriental. For the rest, he was a fair type of the ordinary young Parisian dandy of the day.

Occasionally there crept into his speech an accent, a figure, an allusion, an evasive essence, that was distinctly alien, and he soon, divining that these subtle differences were pleasing to her, began to affect them. After that she was more gracious, and before long a certain intimacy was established between them. She allowed him to say to her — in his Oriental fashion — things which from others would have been coldly received. She was not above a flirtation, but love-making offended her taste.

This woman, with the brain of a man, possessed the rudimentary emotional nature of a child. She had, in place of affections, pas-

sions, instincts, merely a devouring curiosity, a love of change, a desire for sensation.

Because he fed this restless flame Count Abbas charmed her. The intensity of his feeling for her, if she noticed it at all, caused her no concern. She did not wish to inflict suffering, but no impulse to prevent it had ever entered her mind.

Lady Florence's favorite jewels were rubies, and of these the count had some rarely beautiful specimens. When she spoke one day of the enduring nature of such gems he answered with a strange smile:

"My rubies are older than I, to be sure, but they will not necessarily endure longer."

She laughed delightedly. "So you have the elixir of life!"

"I did not say so. Truly, I am no seer. But I have a certain unique advantage over other men. I know the exact spot on earth where my death must occur! Of course I shall never visit that place as long as I desire to live. It follows that I am immortal, if I choose to be."

"And how, pray, did you come into this valuable intelligence?"

"It is an inheritance. I had it from my father's lips, as he had it in secret from his father, whose father confided it to him."

"And yet — they died!"

"Yes, they died. But I need not die. Will you condescend to hear the tale?"

"Continue."

The young man leaned far back into the red cushions of his chair, and as he did so, a beam of the late afternoon sun caught the rubies in his hand, quickening them into flame. His gaze rested on them in silence, and a sudden melancholy came into his handsome, sallow face. His eyes glowed dully, like banked fires. At this moment he was not in the least Parisian. Lady Florence regarded him with admiration, as she would have admired a rare vase, or a marble, or an edition — anything perfect of its kind. As the sunbeam passed, his melancholy also passed, and he spoke in his ordinary light-hearted tone.

"The story reflects such small credit on one of my ancestors that family pride ought to prevent my telling it. But what is the

sin of ingratitude weighed against the infinite happiness of furnishing you entertainment? Know then, O my lady, that when your slave's great-grandfather was little more than a stripling, he was sent on an important mission to the city of Damascus. Having arrived, he was hastening to the house of the dignitary to whom his letters were addressed, when he was abruptly halted by a great crowd of people, which completely filled the narrow street. It may have been a fire, or a religious riot; at all events, there was so much excitement that my great-grandsire wasted no time in taking refuge in a narrow alley between two tall houses hard by.

"Three other persons had preceded them thither; two women seated on asses, attended by an immense black eunuch. One of the women was old, evidently a duenna. The other my impressionable ancestor easily surmised to be young and beautiful. Both of them were frightened out of their senses. It was obviously the part of a brave young man to reassure them. The blockade lasted a long time. What would you have? The end of it all — or the beginning of it all, rather — was a visit the next day from the old woman, an appointment, a disguise, a meeting! Indeed lady, these things happen in the East as frequently as in the West.

"The fair one proved to be the daughter of a Jewish merchant. She was motherless, and somewhat neglected. Tradition preserves that she was, as it were, a willow wand for grace and elegance, and her face was as the moon when it rises on the fourteenth night. At the first dropping of her veil my ancestor's wit was confounded and his reason was unsettled. They conversed together, timidly at first, afterwards with boldness.

"In that country women are not coquettes. They are children in mind and heart, and their passions are as the winds of the desert. Thus Zulma Rebya awoke to love as from a deep sleep.

"I will not attempt to give you the details of the affair. In the first place, I do not know them — I only know that the end came very suddenly. My great-grandsire received a summons from home, and was obliged to go with hardly an adieu. In the East no man marries without his parents' consent, and even if he had wished to wed his Jewish lady-love it would never have been

permitted. So he left Damascus alone. The damsel was, as usual, unreasonable. What says your poet? 'Hell hath no fury like a woman scorned.'

"As my great-grandsire set forth on his journey he was obliged to pass the spot where he had seen her first, and behold, the old woman was waiting for him with a letter in her hand. As he took the writing a chill like that of the tomb came over him. And no wonder! For it contained no tender farewell, but a terrible and a prophetic curse.

"'Thou goest out from the gates of the city where thou didst promise to abide until death found thee within. That promise shalt thou still keep. Here shalt thou die, and never shalt thou die save only here. Thou and thy son and thy son's sons, as long as they have sons. By the virtue of my mother.'

"My ancestor journeyed on and in due season came to his own country, where he lived and completed his manhood and married wives after the custom of our holy religion. Zulma Rebya became as a shadow and her bitter words were, in time, almost forgotten. Almost, but not completely; for when, twenty-five years later, affairs involving a large inheritance made it imperative for one of the family to go to Damascus, my great-grandfather refused to part with his sons. He did not believe very strongly in curses, but if there was a risk he preferred to take it on himself.

"His business was soon accomplished, and in twenty-four hours he was ready to leave the fateful city. But leave he never did, for the cholera was abroad, and he perished in agony, and his ashes were scattered to the winds.

"His eldest son, my grandfather, rose to distinction in the service of the Sultan, who thought so highly of him that he was often entrusted with delicate matters of diplomacy in foreign lands. It was finally decreed that one of the embassies involved certain negotiation with a great Sheik of the Bedawin, whose desert home was near the city of our destiny. Whether or not my grandfather hesitated to go I cannot say, but it is probable that he accepted his mission as a soldier his post at the enemy's front; a duty to be done, even to the death.

"The conference with the Bedawi lasted several days, nearly a week, and resulted to the Sultan's advantage. But other lips than

the ambassador's brought back the tidings. Himself was killed in a street brawl at the very gates of the city.

"When my father, then nearly twenty-one, heard of his father's murder in Damascus, the curse of Zulma Rebya fell heavy on his soul. He was a gloomy man — I think I never heard his laughter — but he was a brave man as well, and his life was as active and as useful as though no dead woman's hand pointed him to a shameful doom. He was Mehemet Ali's nearest friend, and when that great man conquered Egypt, he made my father a marshal of his army.

"In 1830, as you have heard, I was sent with other youths, to Europe; but, unlike the others, I did not return. My father, friend of Mehemet, still had no desire to see his own son made into a pedagogue by the tyrant, and I was warned in time. If I had been at home — " he paused, and a touch of genuine emotion broke his voice.

"What then?" cried Lady Florence, with impatience.

"If I had been at home my father should not have gone."

"He went!"

"Second in command to Ibrahim, whose army captured Damascus in '34. Many perished in that bloody struggle, and among the first — my father."

Lady Florence was as pale as death.

"And do you really believe in it?" she asked breathlessly.

The young man shrugged his shoulders.

She, recovering herself, began to laugh. "Tell me, then, my dear Count, how long do you intend to live? If I remember, none of your few fellow-immortals found an unending existence an actual boon. At what age will you elect that famous journey to Damascus?"

"Ah, Lady Florence," answered the Oriental, rising and coming quickly to her. "A short time since I fancied that I should never go, but now I know that I desire to live only as long as you do. And I shall start to-morrow unless you tell me that I may spend every day of the future near to you — nearer than any other, man or woman."

She stood up in amazement, and motioned him back with an authoritative hand.

"Oh do not reply at once," he cried passionately. "O Moon of Paradise, listen a moment longer! You are used to be worshipped, but not by a man of my race. You have heard words of love, but not in the golden language which I shall teach you. If I am your husband, you will say that in Europe men do not know how to love at all: You will declare that no other woman in the world is a wife."

In spite of herself, Lady Florence was shaken by his stormy ardor. Her cold breast even caught a faint reflective glow. She sank into her chair trembling, and he fell down beside her, possessing her hands with his lips.

"My princess! You will? You will?"

"But you —" she stammered. "A Turk — a Mohammedan —"

"I am not a Turk, I am not a Mohammedan. I have no country, no religion, if any on the earth offend you. Your nation is mine, and the room that holds you is the mosque where I will go to prayer, for the rest of our days."

"My father will never consent."

Why was it impossible for her to dismiss the man outright?

"I have already satisfied your father that I am a suitable alliance. He leaves you perfectly free to accept me if you choose."

"I do not wish to marry yet."

"Ah, but when you do! It is all I ask, that you consent to marry me when you are ready."

"But, good heavens! I am not even ready to do that," she cried desperately.

"At least you do not reject me. By Allah, I will not go to Damascus yet!"

And every day afterwards when he left her, he murmured over her hand: "O my lady, do I journey to Damascus to-morrow?"

And every day the question was asked more ardently, more confidently, for she was never quite able to say "go!"

She had not the remotest intention of accepting him. He did not fulfil the first condition which she had assured her father was necessary to her choice, and she foresaw that, as her lover, he would soon cease to devote himself to merely amusing her.

Then why did she not dismiss him? Not because she feared to cause his death. Lady Florence was not superstitious. The

plain truth is that he overbore her with his personality; he was so near to being her master that she was afraid of him.

The situation soon became intolerable. She, hitherto so proud, so insolent in her strength of mind, stooped now to weakly pondering schemes for getting rid of him, and she believed she had hit upon that which would compel him to abandon his suit. She knew that, in the Oriental character, superstition, dread of curses, belief in the evil eye, is so ingrained as to be structural. She resolved to make this fact her weapon.

Listening one afternoon to his fervid eloquence, she said softly, "I beg of you a little time for reflection. All the world is on its way to Rome for the Carnival. Go you too, and the very hour when you return you shall have your answer."

He drew a long breath, his black eyes devouring her passionately. Then he bowed to the ground, whispered "I hear and obey," and was gone.

The answer was handed Count Abbas two weeks later, to the day. Its first effect was to transform him in appearance into a maniac. Locked in his chamber, he rushed blindly up and down until, utterly exhausted, he fell on the divan, clenched his hands above his head, and sobbed like a hurt animal. At length, his rage spent, he sat up very pale and calm.

"One of them lived a week," he muttered. "If I live a week, I shall have time for love, and for revenge also. If I live only a day, as the first one did — or a few hours, or one hour — she is not worth it, but my desire for her is worth it. Perhaps I will strangle her at the end. I ought to do it."

He opened the door and said to his Egyptian servant: "Ismail, put things together for a sea voyage."

. . . . . .

On the flat roof of the British consulate in Damascus Lady Florence sat, peacefully enjoying the divine love story of the nightingale. She was thinking of the European letters, due probably on the morrow. Her father's would be furious, but she could always pacify him. If Abbas wrote at all, his letter would be unpleasant, but then — she was not obliged to read it. When she returned to Paris, she felt confident, the count would be abroad. She listened for another hour to the nightingale, chatted

with the consul and his wife, a cousin of her mother, and went down to her placid pillow.

The foreign post arrived the next day and so did Count Abbas.

The interview between them was very brief. In the cold pallor, the averted eye, the wordless greeting of the woman who entered the room to receive him, he read the truth before anything was spoken.

"I did not intend this," she said. "I did not dream that it would happen. You would not let me refuse you, and I believed that I could elude you by coming here. It was a stupid plan, and I think very badly of myself. I hope you will forgive me, some day."

She waited for him to speak, and his lips moved, but no syllable escaped them. He looked at her with a hollow stare. His hat fell noisily to the floor; he picked it up, brushed it mechanically, and resumed his expressionless gaze.

Again she broke the painful silence:

"I am sorry to hurt you. I did not intend to do so."

With an effort, he answered in a broken whisper: "Not your fault — the other one."

He turned and felt his way through the door into the street, where Ismail was waiting. Later, they sought a barren lodging, which was to be their abiding place till the end should come. Abbas did not notice the poverty of the place. It was good enough to die in, and from out its portals he never went — alive.

. . . . . .

And did death find him?

Verily, no man escapes his fate.

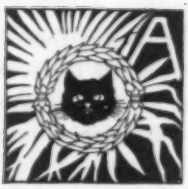
And with what weapon was the blow dealt?

With that which is often reserved for the least worthy among men — old age.

He died at eighty-three — some years after Lady Florence Arbuthnot.

To Save a Stainless Name.*

BY CATHARINE YOUNG GLEN.



MONG the older residents of Tarrytown, N. Y., there are doubtless some who can still point out with interest the large, old-fashioned house, with pleasant walks and cool tree-arches, once the home of the Wall Street broker, J. H. Ihlefield. Mr. Ihlefield's household was composed at that time — thirty years ago — of himself and wife, and a niece and nephew, twenty and twenty-one years of age, respectively, the children of his less fortunate brother, A. V. Ihlefield, then many years dead. Though the uncle had discharged wisely and faithfully the duties of a parent towards the orphans, the nephew — "Harry" as he was called — had disappointed his expectations, and instead of showing a disposition to settle down into a man of affairs, seemed to regard all forms of business with aversion. The niece, Margaret, on the other hand, was not only a girl of unusual beauty and spirit, but of business aptitude as well.

During the month of August, 1867, Mr. and Mrs. Ihlefield and Miss Margaret were visiting at Saratoga Springs — having closed the house at Tarrytown — but the wild Harry declined to accompany them, declaring that Saratoga was too hot and dull, and that he should go yachting with friends.

The family had been but a short time at Saratoga when a matter of business arose which made it necessary for some one of the family to return to Tarrytown at once for its adjustment. At this juncture Mrs. Ihlefield, never strong, was taken suddenly and quite seriously ill. As it was thought unadvisable for her husband to be absent, Miss Margaret herself undertook the errand, leaving Saratoga by an early train.

"The papers will be signed by half-past four," she said to her uncle, at parting, bidding him affectionate farewell, "and by five

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you may think of me as with the Wests." The Wests, with whom she intended to spend the night in Tarrytown, were near neighbors and friends.

The day was close and dusty, the journey tiresome. The accomplishment of her business proved a lengthier matter than Miss Margaret had thought. Certain details of it she was obliged, even then, to leave over until the following morning. It was not, therefore, until after six that she presented herself, a graceful but weary figure, at the door of her friends, the Wests. She was met there with disappointment and perplexity. The house was closed. They had gone, as she afterward learned, a week sooner than intended. The only other friend upon whose hospitality she would have cared, at this hour, unannounced and travel-stained, to intrude, was likewise out of town.

She was averse to going to a hotel. Owing to the nature of her errand, and purposing so early a return, she did not wish her presence generally known. She turned again slowly into the street, and for a moment stood irresolute.

Her own deserted home, half a block beyond, gleamed white through the veil of green, its windows catching the last faint rays of sun. A vision of comfort rose before her, enchanting to her tired soul — her own delightful room — and an impulse, growing into sudden, daring determination, gained possession of the girl. She felt for the latch-key in her bosom, and a few moments later was fitting it to the lock.

"No one will be the wiser!" she exulted, with a laugh and a little natural shiver, as she stepped into the silent hall. She was correct. So quietly did she move about, so carefully did she shield her light, that neither the officer who at intervals patrolled the avenue, nor the watchman whose duty it was to make a round of the grounds between the hours of ten and twelve received a hint of her presence.

After a hasty tour of the house, to convince herself that she was really alone — a trial, even to a spirit so courageous — she went at once to her own bedroom, and remained there through the evening, with her thoughts and her books.

This room, furnished with every luxury, had large front windows on the west, looking out upon the avenue; opposite, at the eastern

end, a door opened into a dressing-room, which in its turn communicated with the hall. On the south, and facing the great Louis XIV. bed, which stood against the northern wall, was a pentagonal alcove, formed by a bay window. In the broad space between its windows stood a dresser, and an archway, richly curtained, half divided it from the room.

It was some time past twelve before Miss Margaret decided to retire. Placing her watch, together with the costly rings she always wore, in a little jewel-box, she shut it away in the drawer of a table between the avenue windows, and removed the key. This she put beneath her pillow.

Her preparations for the night concluded, she extinguished her light, and, folding back the screening blinds, lingered a moment at the open window in the alcove. The moon, now full, had turned the Ihlefield grounds into one great checkerboard, lying in vivid squares of light and shadow. It seemed to Margaret that she had never witnessed a more beautiful scene, nor known a silence so profound. The vines about the trellis, moon-enthralled, seemed made of trailing stone. She herself, standing in that splendor, in one of those dreams of billowy whiteness with which women of her position and wealth are wont to robe themselves for night, would have defied the cunning of the sculptor.

Every trace of fear, the result of her unusual situation, melted away before that majesty of repose. Leaving the alcove windows so that the full tide might pour into the bedroom, she calmly laid her head upon the pillow, and almost immediately slept.

She was to be rudely awakened.

About half-past two — though she had then no notion of time — she came to herself with a sudden and peculiar sense of danger, that something which rouses us, as at the touch of a cold hand, from the numbness of deep sleep into more than two-fold consciousness. Instinct then compels us to be still, every nerve strained, every faculty alert. By not so much as the moving of a finger did Margaret betray herself as she opened her eyes.

The room was still in a silvery glow, yet not as she had left it! She felt her heart to stop within her — then to beat with choking, suffocating violence. The sensation was unendurable. She sat upright, gasping, as for breath.

With the same motion the figure she saw in the alcove turned. A nickelled revolver, instantly levelled, sent its gleam across her face. There was an interval of absolute suspense. Every minutest detail of the tableau before her stamped itself upon her eyes. The man was tall and stalwart, the lower half of his face clean-shaven, the upper hidden by a burglar's mask. He spoke, still covering her. His voice was distinctly audible, yet so low that she seemed to feel, rather than to hear it.

"Make no alarm! Keep perfectly quiet! I mean you no harm if you will do so!" Then, as she neither stirred nor spoke — "Do you give me your word?"

She had no recollection of what she said. She supposed that she must have answered as he desired.

"Very well, then," the muffled voice continued, "I am going on with my work." Regarding her steadily, as though to assure himself, he lowered the weapon. "Remember! I shall hear you if you make the slightest sound!"

Sitting motionless, she could watch his every move. He began a rapid searching of the dresser. Drawer after drawer was turning out its contents, under his still, deft hand.

Her whirling thoughts took shape, revolved about one central, towering idea. She was alone! Alone in an empty house, amid a wilderness of shrubbery, on a deserted block, in the awful silence of night! At all cost, at all hazard, she must conceal the fact from this man, who evidently from his fear that she would give an alarm did not know it. Let him but pass beyond her door, and he would find it out! She reasoned that he had come by her alcove window, which she had left open. If by that window he could be induced to go, without looking farther! If she could only satisfy him with what she had!

With an effort she leaned forward. The figure was bending over the last drawer of the dresser. She spoke rapidly, hardly above a whisper, hearing her own words as though some one else were talking.

"One moment! Will you listen?" He was silent, but from her first syllable showed attention. "Your staying here is dangerous to you, and misery to me! You must not disturb the other rooms! If I make it worth your while will you go? Will you go at once?"

She waited, but he did not answer.

She dared again. Her breath was coming short and fast.

"If I make it worth your while?"

The dark man regarded her furtively. He was evidently unconvinced.

"What is it of value that you have?" he said.

She quivered, with the hope of winning.

"I have money and jewels! They will more than pay you! Will you let me rise, that I may show you? Oh, will you promise me that you will go?"

He stood, a tall, straight shadow, between the alcove curtains. Through the black blot upon his face she could feel him search her soul.

"I believe you are speaking the truth!" he said, at last. His voice was cool and deliberate. "Let me have them, and I will leave you!"

She threw a long, light cloak, lying by the bed, about her shoulders. "Stay where you are!" she commanded. "I shall not try to pass you!"

She took the little case from its hiding in the table drawer. As she stood, the deep baying of a dog came up to her, from far down the avenue. Something in that sound, so grewsome in the dead of night, doubled the horror of her loneliness with that unknown man. She wavered, battling with herself. Every element in her past had its influence in that short, decisive fight with fear.

She took a step toward him, and stopped, with eyes dilated. Then, all the pride of her family in her white-robed figure, she deliberately crossed the belt of moonlight to his side. Her face was pale and resolute, her head thrown back, her rich hair falling about her in a shimmering cloud. The jewels flashed within her hands. Never, perhaps, had that masked man beheld so radiant an apparition.

He started, and stepped backward, but his gaze falling on the stones, he uttered an exclamation of deep, unfeigned delight.

Still holding them, for he made no move to take them, she motioned to the window just behind him.

"I have kept my word!" she said, with simple dignity. "I believe that you will now keep yours!"

Taking the case she extended, he placed it inside his coat, with a peculiar courtesy in the action, foreign to his kind. He turned, as though to obey her, then, hesitating, turned to her again. Something — it might have been a "thank you," it might have been some whimsical apology for the discourtesy Fate had thus driven him to offer her — parted the thin lips. What he would have said she never knew! In the next breath they were set, repelling, drawn across the teeth.

Through the open dressing-room, leading to the hall, had come a sound which transfixed them both. There was no mistake! The knob of the door below, at the foot of the stairs, had turned!

For an instant they faced each other, listening! The dark man's thought was written in his pose — it was that of the animal at bay! He was in danger! The house was awake!

But Margaret, in a flash, surmised the truth. Braving that housebreaker, nerved to her desperate ordeal, she realized that before which her courage melted down like snow. Her predicament — the strangest, maddest whim of chance — has never yet been paralleled, it is likely never will be! The house had been entered again — from below!

There was even then a creeping step upon the stair!

Escape was easy for the burglar. The jewels were safe in his bosom, he had all and more than he came to find! With a silent oath he sprang for the window — but the girl beside him was quicker than he!

Scarce knowing what she did, she flung herself upon him and held him by the arms. Her slender hands were like bands of steel; her eyes, dark with terror, were upraised to his.

She poured forth the secret, which she had given all to guard. Her blanched face was its guarantee of truth.

"You cannot go! You cannot leave me! I am alone!"

He struggled to free himself, to force her away, but she clung to him with the wild abandon of a child. She cried out to him, in sobbing whispers, in agonized entreaty:

"Stay with me! Help me! Help me! I am all alone!"

As they heard the sound again her arms closed upon him.

"Oh, for the love of God!"

The eyes behind the mask burned down upon her. The thought

at that moment behind the eyes only God knew! With a gentleness, the memory of which she carried to the grave, the man suddenly forced her backward into the alcove and drew the curtain so that it concealed them both.

"Let go!" he commanded, in the same low tone. "My right hand must be free!"

She did as she was bidden, standing on the left. Together there, hidden, yet with every other object in the room in bright relief, they waited, listening to that coming, coming tap, tap, tap!

Was it eternal? Would it never end?

Margaret's eyes were riveted upon the line where the light in the bedroom lost itself in the shadow of the dressing-room beyond. It seemed to her that if anything should disturb that shadow, move within it, she must shriek aloud. Vivid, swiftly-changing pictures began to pass and re-pass before her — every scene since her parting with her friends, every unimportant detail of the day just gone — only that betwixt her and that familiar yesterday a timeless gulf now seemed to stretch. She was no more of it than if it were a dream!

The step upon the stair had ceased. There was perfect quiet, broken only by the loud, hard beating of her heart. This stillness was awful; it was worse than the sound. She could not turn her head, yet she could half see the figure at her side. She caught the shifting gleam from something on his right.

Again there was movement! Somewhere there in that uncertain darkness of the dressing-room.

She began to hear the swish and swirl of waters rising about her, and to see the dancing of waves. Something called her back — it was the dark man's hand on her wrist. That touch, reviving, reassuring her, transfusing its iron through her blood! She could look again, seeing as through a blur.

They were not alone in the bedroom. She knew, in spite of the mist that came and went, that some indistinct thing was not far from them, and was drawing toward the curtain. It was looking for the dresser. The dresser was behind them!

The pressure on her arm tightened. "Steady, steady!" it warned her. "Soft, now, soft!" She could feel the tension of the sinewy frame. She closed her eyes, drawing her own strength from it.

They could have touched the man on the other side of the curtain; they could hear him breathe. The fabric trembled between them. Then the groping hand from without laid hold upon it.

There was a motion in the figure beside her, and a loud, involuntary shriek — her own! Then came a crash, and a blinding trail of fire, and another instant crash and blaze in return. The masked man sprang forward, the other man sprang upon him. They fired and fired again. One fell and dragged the other! They locked and rolled, in a tiger-grip, upon the floor. They writhed and panted, in their death-embrace. There was no word, no cry.

Clinging to the curtain over them, Margaret felt the waters rise again! Through the closing darkness she was sensible of a single sound — the thudding of a club on the stones without — an officer, calling help.

Help! Help! But they would be too late for the human tigers at her feet! Her hold on the curtain weakened. She swayed, and fell beside them.

It seemed but a moment before she came to herself, yet she was conscious that in some way all had changed. She stretched her arms — they touched soft pillows. She was lying on her bed.

She sat up. The room was very still. She passed her hand across her eyes. A strange thing had come with her awaking — she was no longer afraid! Creeping up, she slipped from off the bed, and stole out toward the alcove. One dark figure lay there, blotting out the moonlight, his arm thrown heavily across his face. The girl bent over, breathless, looking. A sudden wave of anguish shook her! Which of the two? Was it he who saved her?

She knelt beside the dead man, fiercely, and dragged away his arm.

. . . . . .

There was a jam and crash, below stairs, as though a door had given way, a confusion of unfamiliar sounds. There was a hurried, shuffling noise of feet, and whispering voices. A round red light shot along the upper wall. But she did not heed it. She noticed nothing. She took the heavy head upon her lap, and pressed her hands against the clotted hair. So the police found her, staring down upon it, sitting like a stone. It was not the face she had feared to find! *The dead man was her brother!*

There was a shout below, from without, and one of the officers who had come in rushed back, thinking it a cry for help. She did not hear it! Afterwards she knew that they had found another man, down where the grounds joined the road, unconscious, dying of his wounds — and with her jewels on his breast.

Margaret Ihlefield told her own story. Neither of the silent witnesses has gainsaid her, and the opinion of the world will not disturb her now.

She alone has known what that awful night first revealed and later research laid bare to her; — her brother, a criminal at twenty-one, through bad company and secret debt, had returned to rob his benefactor and foster-father, and had died, red-handed, in his act.

Who shall judge her? What was there left for her to do? Should she blacken his poor dead name, and drag down her family pride? It was easy to account for his being in town on that ill-fated day, and she did so, and said they had been together in the house. The testimony of the officers, the dead thief with the costly proofs upon him — these were her corroboration. To this hour Harry Ihlefield has been a hero, who gave up his life to defend his sister and his uncle's house, and sleeps beneath a glorious marble shaft, but Margaret was never able to look upon it!

After all, the other man has had his reward! Fainting on that night, and waking to find herself upon her bed, she knew that, wounded to death, he had carried her to that place of safety, his life-blood staining her garments, and his features, as she saw them beneath his mask, always lingered in her memory — the clean-shaven face, with its thin lips and inscrutable eyes!

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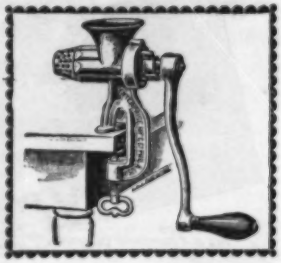

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and

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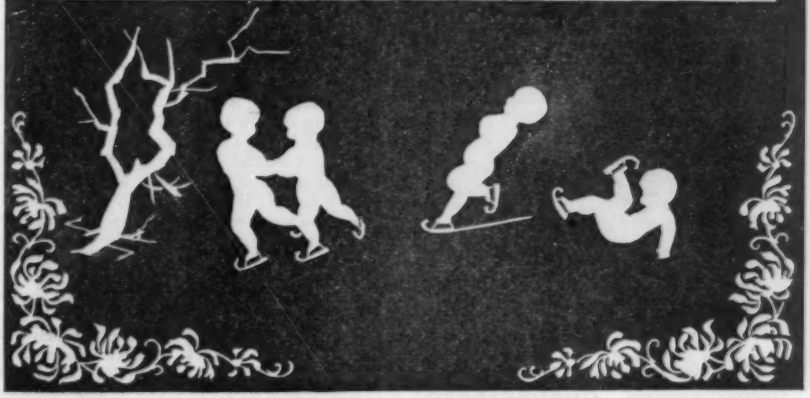
MELLIN'S FOOD

Our baby, Ruth Gordon Jones, is an extraordinarily precocious, strong and happy child. We attribute this largely to Mellin's Food, it having formed her principal diet the greater part of her life. I feel that I owe much to Mellin's Food for my own as well as my little daughter's sake.

Mrs. Clinton Jones,
Winthrop Ave., Wollaston, Mass.

Mellin's Food provides proper nourishment and makes firm flesh, strong limbs and a rugged constitution. Mellin's Food gives the baby health and vitality. A free sample of Mellin's Food on request.

MELLIN'S FOOD COMPANY, - - Boston, Mass.



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FOR DRINKING, COOKING, CREAMS &c

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FOR PURITY OF MATERIAL FOR DELICIOUSNESS OF FLAVOR UNSURPASSED.

GROCERS EVERYWHERE.

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32-Page Book on Art and Fancy Work Given to The Black Cat Readers.

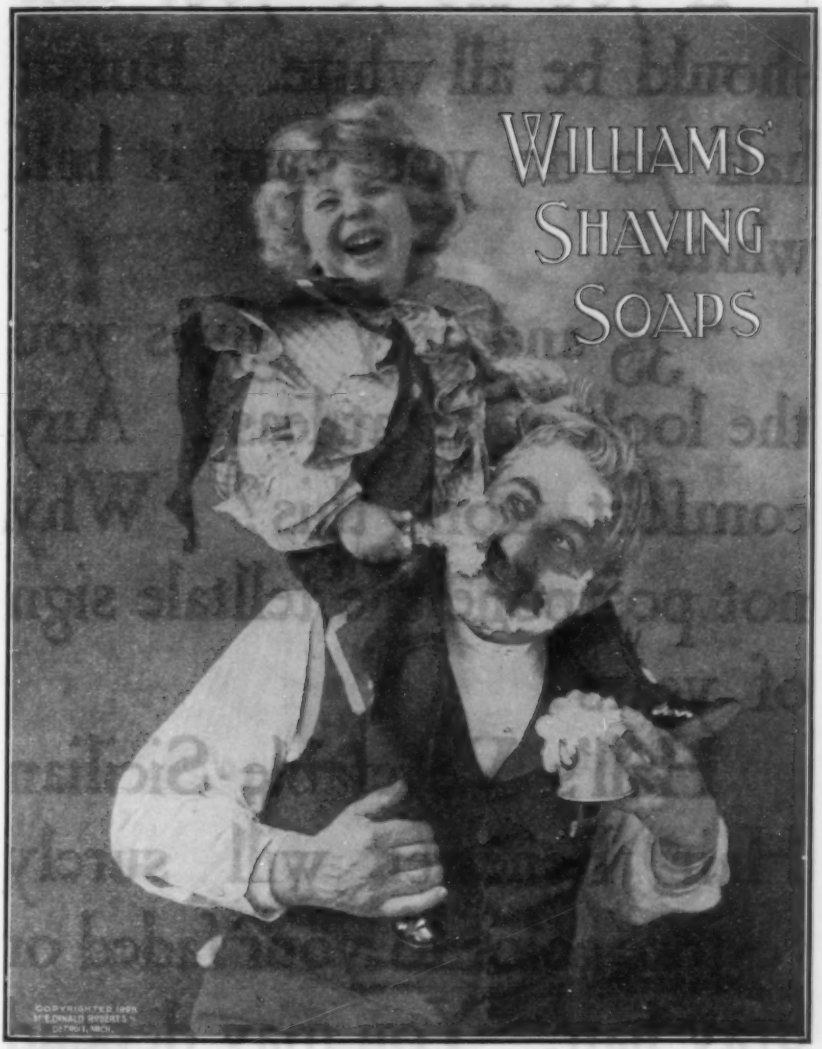
Mrs. Nella Daggett, editor of *The Home*, has published a new edition of her book, "Fancy Work and Art Decoration," giving practical instructions for making doilies, table covers, scarfs, tray cloths, pin cushions, etc., etc., with 50 illustrations. This book, together with "Successful Home Dyeing," will be sent free to any reader of THE BLACK CAT who forwards the attached coupon and a 2-cent stamp to Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington, Vt.

COUPON NO. 1308.

Send this with a 2-cent stamp to Wells, Richardson & Co., Burlington Vt., and receive by mail one copy each of "Fancy Work" and "Home Dyeing."

This liberal offer is made to advertise the reliable Diamond Dyes and to get their book upon home dyeing into the hands of women who want to dress well by making their old clothing look new.

Diamond Dyes are prepared specially for home use, and are practical and simple. They make fast colors, and are far superior to any other method of home dyeing.



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If you are 70 your hair should be all white. But at half 70 do you want it half white?

"35 and gray" gives you the look of 50 at least. Any comfort from this? Why not postpone the telltale sign of years?

Hall's Vegetable Sicilian Hair Renewer will surely restore color to your faded or gray hair. You may depend upon it every time.

If your druggist cannot supply you, send $1 to R. P. Hall & Co., Nashua, N. H.

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THE BEER THAT MADE
MILWAUKEE FAMOUS.

We will send you a 200 page WEBSTER POCKET DICTIONARY, containing 28,000 words, and our Booklet, "PURE BEER," free on application. Address SCHLITZ, Milwaukee.

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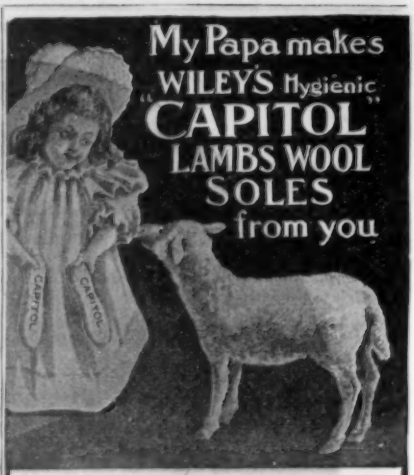
For 1899 Published Quarterly

A magazine devoted to Art Needlework, Embroidery, Crochet and Home Decoration. The first number (just out) gives lessons in shading Tulips, Thistles, Poppies, Morning Glories, Fuchsias, Golden Rod, Holly, Maidenhair Fern, Forget-me-nots, Strawberries, Cherries, Honeysuckles, Carnations, Orchids, Violets, Pansies, American Beauty, La France and other Double Roses. Also patterns for Cross Stitch, Church Embroidery, and Decore Crochet, never before published.

Send us **25c.** for subscription to the four books, or **10c.** for the January number.

FLORENCE PUBLISHING CO., 207 Bridge Street, Florence, Mass.



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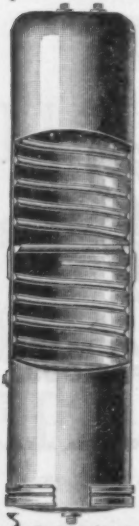
VARIOUS DEVICES

are made for repairing rust holes in galvanized iron range boilers. There are never any rust holes to repair in a

Brown Brothers' Seamless Copper House-Range Boiler.



The smooth lining of heavy tin affords no resting-place for sediment and insures

CLEAN HOT WATER

No Seams; No Rivets; No Leaks.

Boiler booklet, with full particulars, sent on request.

RANDOLPH & CLOWES,
Box 54,
WATERBURY, CONN.

SEND ONE DOLLAR

Cut this ad. out and send to us, state number inches across top of your buggy seat in front, from outside to outside, and we will send you this **Buggy Top** by freight C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your freight depot, and if found perfectly satisfactory, the greatest bargain you ever saw, and equal to tops that retail at $15.00, pay the freight agent our special price, **$6.80,** less the $1.00, or **$5.80** and freight charges. The freight charges will average about 30c. for 500 miles.

THESE TOPS ARE BUILT TO FIT ANY BUGGY OR ROAD WAGON. You can fit them on in 20 minutes. Made from 24 oz. best rubber drill, head and back stays lined with No. 14 X cloth, side curtains unlined, 3 or 4 black japanned steel bows, japanned prop nuts, wrought iron shifting rail, patent buttons, which makes it adjustable; full length back curtain with glass window, valance front and rear. **3,000 WILL BE SOLD AT $6.80. Order to-day. WRITE FOR FREE BUGGY CATALOGUE.** Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (INC.) CHICAGO, ILL.

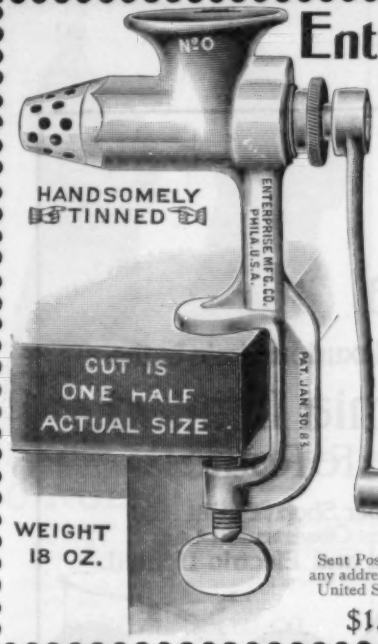
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

PURE WATER

is distilled water. Nothing but distillation will eliminate both organic and inorganic impurities. An ordinary cook stove is all you need with

The Sanitary Still

to give you plenty of pure, sparkling water, aerated with sterilized air. Free booklet. Our $10.00 still has twice the capacity of others. Write at once for particulars. **Cuprigraph Co., 141 N. Green St., Chicago.**



Enterprise

Meat and Food

Masticator

Designed for use of Invalids, Dyspeptics, and those with Poor Teeth

Can be attached to Dining-Table at meal time and Meat and Food of any kind run through on to Dining-Plate **Thoroughly Chopped** into Fine Particles.

Practically in Two Pieces.

Leaves no Meat in the Machine and is Easily Cleaned.

We also make thirty sizes and styles of Meat and Food Choppers for Hand and Power, from $1.50 to $275.00.

Descriptive Catalogue Mailed Free.

Send four cents in stamps for the "ENTERPRISING HOUSEKEEPER"—200 recipes.

Sent Postpaid to any address in the United States for

$1.00

The Enterprise Mfg. Co. of Pa.

Third and Dauphin Streets,

Sold Everywhere. **Philadelphia, Pa.**

This chair is covered with

PANTASOTE

A Wonderful Material!

Waterproof, grease proof, stain proof, and germ proof. Will outwear leather; looks exactly like it and costs half as much.

Tested for six years by leading railways of Europe and America, and by steamship companies, yacht and coach builders, furniture makers and upholsterers, and proved to be superior to any material for durability. Adopted by the U. S. War Department for its ambulances.

Pantasote does not rot, crackle, or peel, is not affected by heat, cold, or moisture, is not inflammable, and is made in plain leather grains or embossed. All standard colors.

Enough to cover a dining chair seat or footstool sent for 25c. in stamps.

Sample free. 6 x 15 ins. sent for 2c. stamp and your furniture dealer's or upholsterer's name.

Caution. There are worthless and dangerous imitations. Genuine goods have **PANTASOTE** stamped on edge.

THE PANTASOTE COMPANY, 29 Broadway (Dept. K), N. Y. City.

To Southern California

The fastest and most luxurious train is the

California Limited
Santa Fe Route

Pullmans, Dining Car, Barber Shop, Buffet
Smoking Car and Ladies' Observation Car.
Vestibuled and Electric Lighted.

Mondays,
Wednesdays
and Saturdays
from Chicago.

Daily fast California Express
carries Pullman and Tourist Sleepers
and free Reclining Chair Cars.

Address
General Passenger Office
Atchison, Topeka
and Santa Fe Ry.
Chicago.

USE GOOD LUCK

PERFECTION CIRCLETTES

which keep the heel from wearing over, and add from 25 to 50 cents to wearing value of shoe. Made of hardened silver steel; driven by a hammer blow. Send 4 cents in stamps for enough for a pair of shoes, or 10 cents for three dozen.

SANFORD MFG. CO.

SUMMER AND HIGH STS., BOSTON, MASS.

You Run No Risk

If your bicycle saddle don't suit, get

"THE BERNASCO"

It **will** suit you because it is shaped right—adjusts itself to any figure. Hygienic in principle, perfect spring motion, properly padded; will not chafe, bruise, irritate nor tire you. Try it and be convinced. Ask dealers for the

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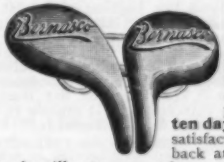

Saddle

If they do not have it send us **$2.50** and get one express paid. Use it **ten days**, then if not satisfactory, send it back at our expense, and we'll return your $2.50. *State whether for man or woman.* Write for booklet.

WM. B. RILEY & CO., 324 & 326 Market St., Phila.

WANTED

RELIABLE MEN in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences, and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary; **$65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES** not to exceed $2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars. **THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO., Buffalo, N. Y.**

The House

Patent Scroll Saw

This saw can be used one week and if not satisfactory can be returned, and the money will be refunded, less charges for transportation.

All iron and steel except the wood tables. Durable, easy-running, cheap. Price, with extra designs, saw blades, hand drill, etc., **$8.00**; with lathe and turning tools, **$10.00.**

Scroll Saw Designs.

On receipt of **15 cents**, I will send, postpaid, the pattern of this THREE-SHELF BRACKET, size 13 x 21, over **300** beautiful MINIATURE DESIGNS for SCROLL SAWING, and my ILLUSTRATED Catalogue of Scroll Saws, Lathes, Fancy Woods, Small Locks, Fancy Hinges, Catches, Clock Movements, etc., or send **6 cents** for Catalogue and Miniature Designs.

Any wide-awake boy can make these brackets with the House Scroll Saw.

A. H. Pomeroy, Book Dept., **98 Asylum St., Hartford, Conn.**

(Scroll saws at **$1.25** and upwards. Send for Catalogue.)

STAMPS. 50 diff. genuine Cuba, Pto. Rico, Philippine Isl., Mexico, Egypt, etc., with small album, **only 5c.** Approval sheets at **50** per cent. Agents wanted. **New** 80-page Price List **Free!** We buy Stamps and Collections. *Established* 1885.
STANDARD STAMP CO., St. Louis, Mo.

4 BUGGY WHEELS $6.50

HIGH GRADE, SARVEN'S PATENT, tired and banded, height 3 ft. 4 in., 3 ft. 8 in. or 4 ft. Spokes 1 1-16 or 1 1-8 in. For any other sizes send for catalogue. Cut this ad out and send to us with **ONE DOLLAR**, state size wheel wanted and we will send them by freight **C. O. D. EXAMINE THEM** at your freight depot and then **pay freight agent** balance, **$5.50** and freight charges.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc) CHICAGO, ILL.

DRINK HABIT CURED AT HOME!!

D. C. BARTLETT, M. D.
"I have demonstrated that Alcoholism is a curable disease."

We are treating and curing more patients than any other drink cure in the world. This is because we treat our patients at their homes, saving the time, expense, and publicity of an institute treatment; because we use no hypodermic injections with their bad effects, but give healthful tonics; because we not only antidote the drink crave, but cure the diseased conditions arising from the use of intoxicants.

By our system of correspondence, each patient receives individual care and instructions.

We have received the highest and best indorsements of any cure in the world, from leaders among men whose commendation the whole world could not buy. Hon. L. S. Coffin, President of the Railway Temperance Association of America, and founder of the "White Button" movement, says: "The work of the Bartlett Cure is well nigh miraculous. It stands in advance of all other cures for drunkenness."

Write us in confidence stating your case. We will send free, in plain package, Dr. Bartlett's latest work, an exhaustive treatise on the cause, effect, and cure of alcoholism.

The BARTLETT CURE CO.,
D. C. BARTLETT, M. D., MANAGER.
157 Washington St., 8th Floor, Chicago, Ill.

EARN A SECRETARY

By Selling **Baker's Teas, Etc.**, to a total of 30 premium lbs. (a few hours' work among friends will win this prize); 25 lbs. Silver Watch; 50 lbs. Waltham Gold Watch; 75 lbs. for Boys' or Girls' Bicycle; 150 lbs. for Ladies' or Gents' Best High-Grade Bicycle. *Write for full Cata. and particulars.*
W. G. Baker (Dept. S), Springfield, Mass.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR and this ad. and we will send you this big 325-lb. new 1899 pattern high grade RESERVOIR COAL AND WOOD COOK STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL PRICE, **$13.00** less the $1.00 sent with order, or $12.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16¼x18x11, top is 42x23; made from best pig iron, extra large flues, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornamentations and trimmings, extra large deep genuine Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornamented base, best coal burner made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you $25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about $1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least $10. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc), CHICAGO.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE

GEO. H. GERE YACHT AND LAUNCH WORKS
FINE CABIN AND OPEN LAUNCHES
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
GEN'L U.S. & CANADA SALES AGT. FOR
MONITOR GASOLINE VAPOR ENGINES

PALATIAL RAILROAD SERVICE.

The train service of the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railway is carefully managed, complete, and reliable.

Sleeping cars are run on all night trains between Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Chicago, Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and St. Louis without change.

Dining cars are attached to all through trains.

Do not fail to buy your ticket over the Lake Shore.

Aiken, Augusta, Florida, Cuba, and California.

All of these popular winter resorts are reached by the Southern Railway upon the quickest schedules and the most perfect service ever offered the traveler seeking a mild climate to spend the winter. Double daily fast trains are operated every day in the year giving dining-car service. Through Pullman drawing-room sleeping cars from New York to Augusta (connection at Trenton for Aiken), Nashville, New Orleans, Memphis, and Tampa. Commencing January 16, 1899, the third train, known as the New York and Florida Limited, will resume service, and will be operated solid between New York and St. Augustine, composed exclusively of dining, library, observation, compartment, and drawing-room sleeping cars. Special annex state and drawing-room sleeping cars leave New York every Tuesday and Saturday for New Orleans, where connections are made with the "Sunset Limited" for the Pacific Coast. On December 4th the East Coast Steamship Company will inaugurate a twice a week service between Miami and Havana direct, making connections with the United States fast mail trains of the Southern Railway. The inauguration of the new steamship service shortens the time between New York and Havana. For full particulars, etc., call on or address Alex. S. Thweatt, Eastern Passenger Agent, 271 Broadway, New York.

HAWAII AND THE PHILIPPINES.

Send four cents (in stamps) for an illustrated booklet issued by the Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railway, the direct route across the American Continent to the New Trans-Pacific Possessions of the United States. Full of latest reliable information and valuable for reference. Can be used as a text-book in school. Address, Geo. H. Heafford, Gen'l Pass. and Ticket Agent, Chicago, Ill.

Best Seeds that Grow!

Thousands of Dollars in CASH PRIZES for 1899

and many other New Features, of particular interest, presented in

BURPEE'S Farm Annual

The Leading American Seed Catalogue Mailed FREE to all.

A handsome **new book of 176 pages**—tells the plain truth about Seeds, including rare Novelties which cannot be had elsewhere. Beautiful colored plates and hundreds of illustrations from nature. Gives practical information of real value to all who would raise the choicest Vegetables and most beautiful Flowers.

Write a postal card TO-DAY!

W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO., Philadelphia

The Ingersoll Dollar Watch

Now household words. **2,000,000 Sold** in 2 Years under an **Absolute Guarantee** printed below has made them so. We have demonstrated that a good Watch for a Dollar is possible. The sales are now over **3,000 per day. You** want one—either for yourself, or your boy. As good as any Watch made for ordinary every-day use. Keeps good Accurate Time (**guaranteed** as below). Has Lever escapement, quick train; second hand; good nickel case; Keyless Wind and Set; 18 size. Buy **this** Watch to **use** and a $50 one for **show**. Sent postpaid for **One Dollar.**

Robt. H. Ingersoll & Bros.,
67 Cortlandt St.,
Dept. No. (156), N. Y.

Most of Eve's Fair Daughters

love flowers, and look to us each year to supply their garden wants. Our 1899 Catalogue of

Everything FOR THE Garden

is a 190-page book, 9x11 inches, containing over 700 engravings and 6 superb colored plates of Seeds and Plants. And as all are drawn from nature, we show, as in a looking-glass, the best of the old and the latest of the new.

To trace advertising, and give our Catalogue the largest possible distribution, we make the following unusually liberal offer:

Every Empty Envelope Counts as Cash.

To every one who will state where this advertisement was seen, and who encloses us **10 cents** (in stamps), we will mail the Catalogue, and also send, **free of charge**, our famous **50-cent "Empire State" Collection** of Seeds, containing one packet each of New Large-flowering Sweet Peas, New Butterfly Pansy, New Jubilee Asters, New Golden Rose Celery, New York Lettuce, and Ponderosa Tomato, in a red envelope, which, when emptied and returned, will be accepted as a 25-cent cash payment on any order of goods selected from Catalogue to the amount of $1.00 and upward.

PETER HENDERSON & CO.
35 & 37 CORTLANDT ST., NEW YORK.

GET 256 page book about MAGIC Lanterns **FREE** Tells how to operate them, how much they cost—how to **make money** *with small capital.* Sent free on request. McALLISTER, Mfg. Optician, 49 Nassau St., N. Y.

$2.95

OUR 1899 MACKINTOSH

SEND NO MONEY, cut this out and send to us, state your height and weight, bust measure, length of garment from collar down back to waist line, and waist line to bottom of skirt; state color wanted and we will send you this **mackintosh** by express C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and by far the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay your express agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $2.95,** and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is made of BLACK or BLUE genuine RAINGLEY double texture, waterproof SERGE CLOTH, with fancy plaid lining, velvet collar, double detachable cape, extra full sweep cape and skirt, guaranteed latest style and finest tailor-made.

FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of everything in ladies' mackintoshes, write for free Sample Book No. 85 C. ADDRESS,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

BICYCLES

GUNS

CANOES

BOATS

FISH-RODS

CAMERAS

And all the paraphernalia necessary for enjoying the out-door pastimes are being

Given Away Free

to those who will devote their leisure moments to subscription soliciting for

the foremost magazine devoted to genteel sports. Every man and woman, every boy and girl, is a sportsman or sportswoman at heart, therefore every one wants OUTING.

Subscriptions are easily secured; our offers are more than liberal. Send for our 16-page premium list and full particulars, agent's equipment, etc.

THE OUTING PUBLISHING CO., 239 Fifth Ave., New York.

GOOD FOR LITTLE FOLKS

CANDY CATHARTIC

Cascarets

10¢. 25¢. 50¢.

ALL DRUGGISTS.

YOU CAN MAKE BIG MONEY

EXHIBITING OUR WONDERFUL GEM GRAPHOPHONE TALKING MACHINE in public halls, school houses and churches. It talks, it sings, it laughs, it plays music, it imitates perfectly the brass band, the orchestra, the piano, the human voice, in fact anything. A wonder as a money maker and as a home entertainer. All the latest music, either vocal or instrumental, speeches of prominent men, etc. COMPLETE OUTFIT consisting of Talking Machine with automatic spring motor, 12 musical or talking records, large illustrated advertising posters (12x18 inches), admission tickets and instruction book with advice about making engagements, securing the use of halls, etc., FOR $15.25. SO SIMPLE that a child can operate it and nothing to get out of order. Will last a lifetime. Cut this ad. out and send for catalogue of Graphophones, Records, etc., with copies of hundreds of testimonials from people who are making hundreds of dollars with our exhibition outfits. ADDRESS,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA COMPANY

TEA SET FREE,

Toilet Set, Watch, Lamp, Clock, and many other Household Articles

with $5.00, $7.00 and $10.00 orders of our celebrated Teas, Coffees, Baking Powder, Spices and Extracts. Great inducements. Something entirely new. Price List Free.

THE GREAT AMERICAN TEA CO.,
31 and 33 Vesey St., N. Y., P. O. Box 289.

"Mizpah" Valve Nipples

WILL NOT COLLAPSE

and therefore prevent much colic. The valve prevents a vacuum being formed to collapse them. The ribs inside prevent collapsing when the child bites them. The rim is such that they cannot be pulled off the bottle. Sample free by mail.

WALTER F. WARE, 513 Arch Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

Knitted Table Padding and Knitted Mattress Pads

Send for free booklet and sample of these goods, which delight every housekeeper who appreciates luxury and economy in table service, and clean, comfortable, healthful beds. Sold by all first-class dry goods houses. Address, Knitted Mattress Co., Canton Junction, Mass.

Be sure to mention The Black Cat.

"TRIX"

TRIX CO., ROCHESTER N.Y.

5¢ THROAT RELIEF "TRIX" FRAGRANT AROMATIC BREATH PERFUME

YOU CAN MAKE $10 TO $30
Per day exhibiting our
Panoramic Cuban War Exhibition Outfit.
Everybody is enthused over the brilliant victories of our Army and Navy and the exhibitions have only to be advertised to bring crowded houses at good prices for admission. We furnish the complete outfit, including 52 Cuban War Views, High Grade Stereopticon, large (14x21) Advertising Posters, Admission Tickets, etc. for a little money. Cut this ad. out and send for circulars with full particulars and copies of testimonials from exhibitors who are making big money with our outfits. Address,
Sears, Roebuck & Co., Inc., Chicago, Ill.

The Wooden Hen

A faultless hatching machine for 50 eggs. Price $7. Heat and moisture regulation and ventilation, absolutely perfect. A book about the Wooden Hen, and one about the **Excelsior Incubator**, will be sent free to any one naming this paper.
GEO. H. STAHL, QUINCY, ILL.

For Men, Women and Children. Address,
The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co.,
185 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO. Catalogue Free.
RUBBER GOODS

HOW TO HAVE EASY, HEALTHY, SHAPELY
FEET
A PAMPHLET FOR 2c.
A BUNION. **Foot Remedy Co., Chicago.** CURED.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 *Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.*

ARE YOU humiliated with hair on your face? If you are, write to Modene Mfg. Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. They have been established for years and are doing an immense business. Always mention The Black Cat when writing.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING
at home, $1.50 per day, four months' work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for full particulars.
E. W. Button & Co., Dept. 60, Phila., Pa.

Big Drop in Dress Goods.

Every one can now buy Dress Goods of every description and from one yard upwards, for just as little money as the largest merchants can buy in quantities. You will receive free by mail, postpaid, a book of 60 cloth samples of latest things in all kinds of Dress Goods, at 12½c. to $1.25 per yard, also full instructions how to order, etc., if you will cut this notice out and mail to the big reliable house of
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago.

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We have a large quantity of work to give out to families (occupying their whole time or leisure hours). We send it by mail and have it returned by mail. Any person can do this work and easily **make from $7 to $10 per week.** Write at once for full particulars and instructions.
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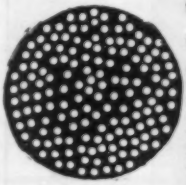

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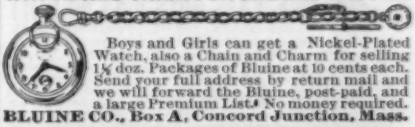

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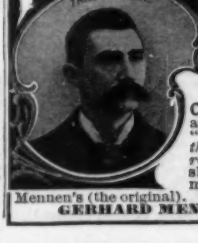

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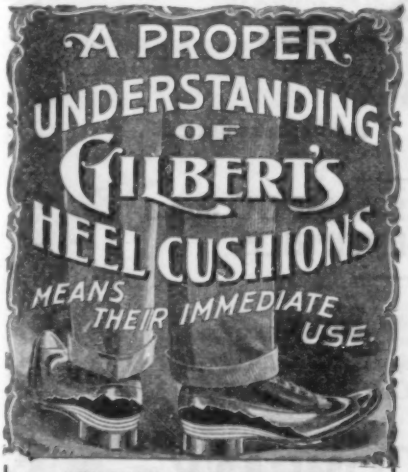

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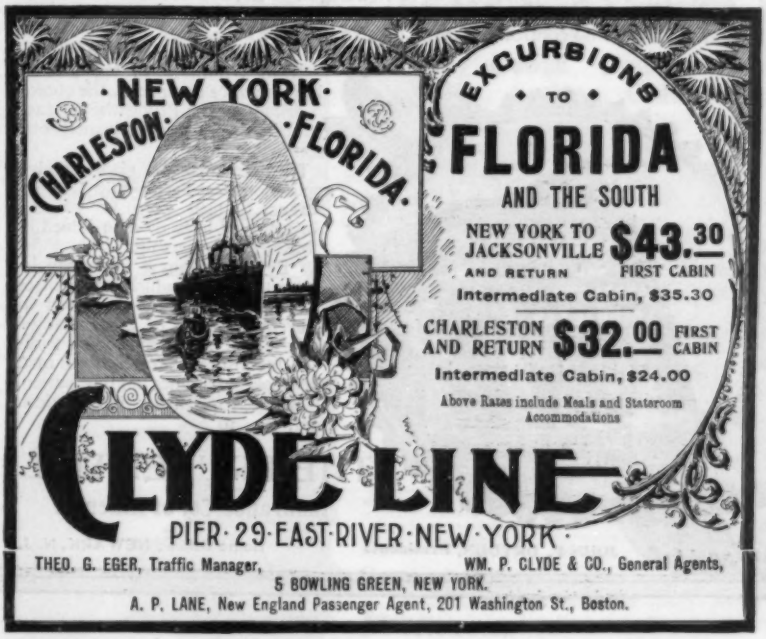

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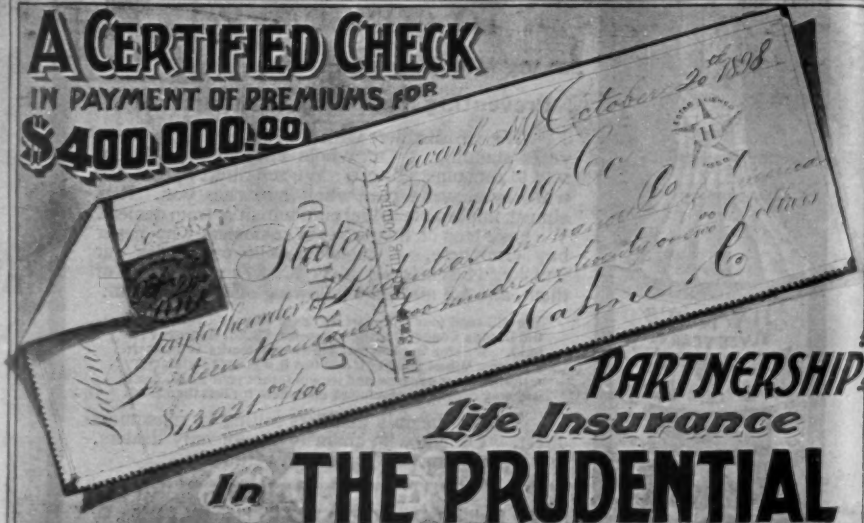

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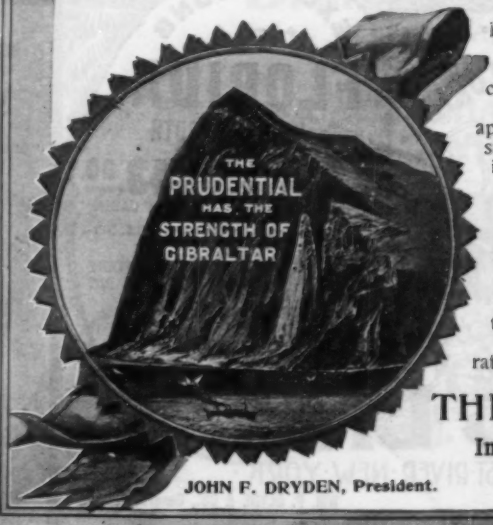

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can be relied upon for Perfect Satisfaction.

It has cost more than seventy thousand dollars and more than two years of time to produce it.

It is the height of elegance and fashion, the perfection of ease and serviceability.

It supports the instep and prevents flattening of the arch of the foot.

It is a better shoe than women have been accustomed to pay $5, $6, and $7 for.

It is made in 27 styles.

Our finely illustrated catalogue tells the story of the Sorosis Shoe and shows all the styles; which include shapes and kinds for all occasions. Price for all styles,

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Sent prepaid on receipt of price if your dealer has only one of the numerous imitations to offer you. None genuine without "Sorosis" branded on the sole. Send for catalogue.

A Perfect Shoe at a Popular Price,

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Produced by a house that has for years made Salad Dressing a study, and which possesses unequaled facilities for procuring the finest condiments in the world.

Send for FREE booklet on "Salads: How to Make and Dress Them," giving many valuable and novel recipes for Salads, Sandwiches, Sauces, Luncheon Dishes, etc. Sample, 10c. E. R. DURKEE & CO, 157 Water Street, New York.

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So easy of Adjustment and Manipulation — a child can use them.

So excellent in Manufacture, so certain in Results — the most expert and exacting amateur will find them satisfactory.

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Here is a picture of our daughter, Marjorie, taken when she was ten months old. She is at present a little over twelve months, has never had anything but Mellin's Food and has never seen a sick day. We attribute the majority of her good health and happiness to Mellin's Food.

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Mellin's Food is a perfect substitute for mother's milk and a babe a few days old can be placed on it with a perfect safety and surety of beneficial results. It can be adapted to every child and to every age.

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are recognized the world over as representing the highest type of excellence in bicycle construction and are ridden by more people of prominence than any other wheel in the world.

1899 MODELS $50.00 AND $35.00.

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Lake, Halsted & Fulton Streets, Chicago.

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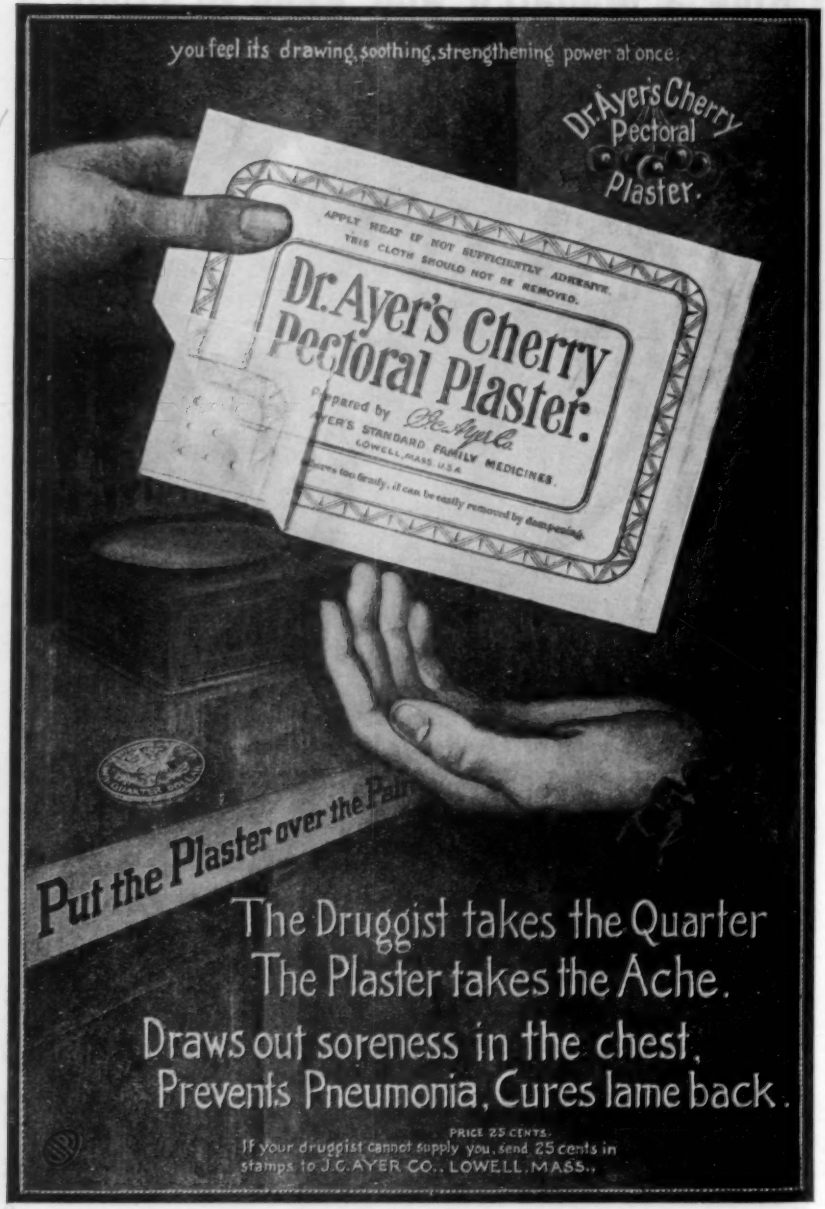
Send 20 cents in stamps for a deck of Monarch Playing Cards, illustrating Jessie Bartlett Davis, Lillian Russell, Tom Cooper, Lee Richardson and Walter Jones.

"ALL ROADS ARE ALIKE TO A MONARCH."


you feel its drawing, soothing, strengthening power at once.
Dr. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Plaster.
APPLY HEAT IF NOT SUFFICIENTLY ADHESIVE.
THIS CLOTH SHOULD NOT BE REMOVED.
Dr. Ayer's Cherry Pectoral Plaster.
Prepared by Dr. Ayer & Co.
AYER'S STANDARD FAMILY MEDICINES.
LOWELL, MASS. U.S.A.
Put the Plaster over the Pain
The Druggist takes the Quarter
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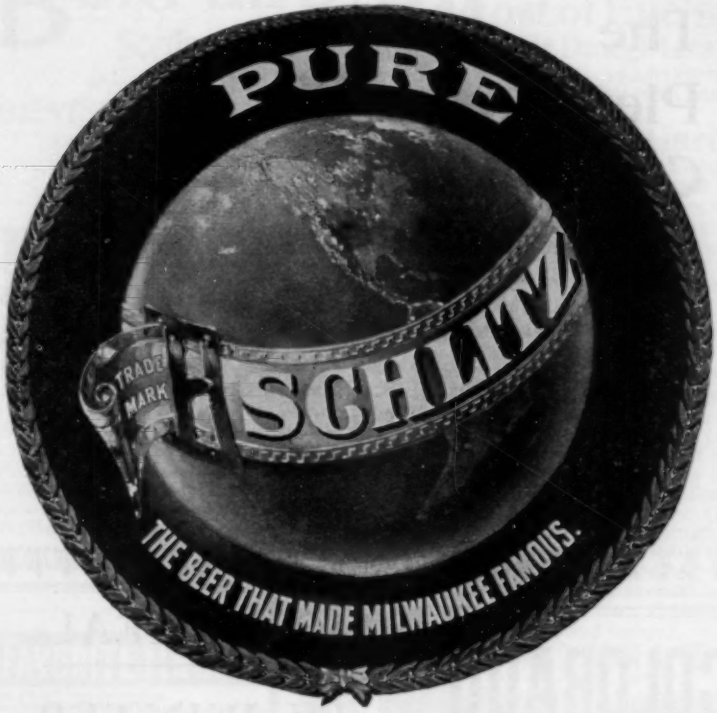
Draws out soreness in the chest,
Prevents Pneumonia, Cures lame back.
PRICE 25 CENTS.
If your druggist cannot supply you, send 25 cents in stamps to J.C. AYER CO., LOWELL, MASS.



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Beer is a saccharine product, and purity is its chief requirement. The slightest taint develops to rob the whole product of its healthfulness.

But purity isn't easy to attain. It is most exacting. It requires that cleanliness, and care, and skill be carried to extremes.

We even go further than that. Schlitz Beer is cooled in plate glass rooms—in filtered air. Then we filter the beer; then we sterilize every bottle, after it is filled and sealed.

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In February are found out of doors under the spell of delicious climate.

Mountains and sea, and strange foliage, flowers and fruits, lend a fresh charm to living, and often life is given anew.

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Is one of the most charming of American cities — quaint and curious. The bright costumes of the Snowshoe Club and the Toboggan Club enliven every street, while sleighing and skating are continuous from November to April.

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Seeds Grow

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BEST THAT GROW!

As proved by thousands of trials at our famous FORDHOOK FARMS,—the largest Trial Grounds in America.

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A handsome **new book of 176 pages;** tells the plain truth about Seeds, including rare Novelties which cannot be had elsewhere. Beautiful colored plates and hundreds of illustrations from nature. Gives practical information of real value to all who would raise the choicest Vegetables and most beautiful Flowers. **Write a postal card TO-DAY!**

W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO., - Philadelphia.

3 FAVORITE FLOWERS 6¢

Sweet Peas—over 40 varieties.
Perfected Royal Show Pansies—100 colors
Nasturtiums—every known good sort.

Above 3 packets mailed for 6 cents and names of two friends who grow flowers; also *Floral Culture* which tells how to grow flowers from seeds. Daintiest catalogue ever issued of flower seeds exclusively, sent free by the "pioneer seedswoman."

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LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING

at home, $1.50 per day, four months' work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for full particulars.
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Most of Eve's Fair Daughters

love flowers, and look to us each year to supply their garden wants. Our 1899 Catalogue of

Everything FOR THE Garden

is a 190-page book, 9x11 inches, containing over 700 engravings and 6 superb colored plates of Seeds and Plants. And as all are drawn from nature, we show, as in a looking-glass, the best of the old and the latest of the new.

To trace advertising, and give our Catalogue the largest possible distribution, we make the following unusually liberal offer:

Every Empty Envelope Counts as Cash.

To every one who will state where this advertisement was seen, and who encloses us **10 cents** (in stamps), we will mail the Catalogue, and also send, **free of charge,** our famous **50-cent "Empire State" Collection** of Seeds, containing one packet each of New Large-flowering Sweet Peas, New Butterfly Pansy, New Jubilee Asters, New Golden Rose Celery, New York Lettuce, and Ponderosa Tomato, in a **red envelope,** which, when emptied and returned, will be **accepted as a 25-cent cash payment** on any order of goods selected from Catalogue to the amount of $1.00 and upward.

PETER HENDERSON & CO.
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RARE PALM CHEAP!

For **only 25 cents** we will send postpaid a fine **Feather Palm** (*Cocos Weddelliana*) like the cut, (*usual price 50 cents*), and a copy of our **Catalogue of Rare Florida Flowers and Fruits,** offering Palms, Ferns, Amaryllis, pet Oranges and other choice pot fruits and rarest plants at the lowest prices. Catalogue **Free** to all applicants.

THE JESSAMINE GARDENS,
Jessamine, Florida.

SEEDS!
MAILED FREE.

We are Mailing Millions of Packages.

25 PACKAGES ONLY 15 CTS.

Pansy	40 kinds.	Candytuft	10 kinds.
Nasturtiums	10 "	Morning Glory	15 "
Phlox	20 "	Sweet Peas	36 "
Verbena	18 "	" Mignonette	5 "
Pinks	15 "	" Alyssum	5 "
Petunia	12 "	Portulaca	15 "
Asters	47 "	Zinnias	10 "
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Poppy	26 "	Larkspur	10 "
Calandulia	5 "	Forget-Me-Nots	
Batch'r Buttons	10 "	Ageratum	
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Four O'clocks	10 "	**Catalogue Free.**	

2 ozs. Best SWEET PEAS

All Colors Mixed, Only 10 cents.

50 BULBS 25c.

Begonias, Tulips, Freezias, Tuberoses, Gladiolus, Oxalis, Crocus, Jonquils, Hyacinths, Chinese Lilies, Daffodils Gloxinias.

14 PACKAGES VEGETABLE SEEDS ONLY 10 CENTS.

HILLSIDE NURSERY, - - Somerville, Mass.

The OLYMPIA Self-Playing MUSIC BOX

is the latest and most improved of all the Music Boxes with Interchangeable Tune-Disks.

Send for Handsome Illustrated Catalogue

of Music Boxes at all prices, and list of tunes.

OVER 500 TUNES are ready, and the latest music is constantly being added.

Insist on an Olympia

There is no "Just as Good."

THE PIANO CANNOT PRODUCE the richness attained by the Olympia unless played by six or eight hands, and then the players must be experts. It is superior to every other make in tone and simplicity of construction. The durability you'll appreciate years from now, after inferior makes would have been worn out and useless. Disks are easily changed—they're practically indestructible.

CHARMING HOME ENTERTAINMENTS may be arranged without notice if an Olympia is in the parlor—Dancing, singing, instrumental renderings—Hymns and Church Music, too.

THIS ILLUSTRATION shows Style IV—polished mahogany or oak case—22x20x10 inches high. Price, including One Tune-Disk **$45**
Extra Tunes, 60 Cents each. Sent on receipt of price.

Sent on Trial On receipt of $48.50 ($45.00 being for six extra tune-disks) we will send the Olympia on 10 days' trial. You can return it, and get your money back, if not entirely satisfied. Write to us.

F. G. OTTO & SONS, 51 Sherman Ave. Jersey City, N. J.
Or from Dealers in Musical Instruments, and Jewelers

PLAYS

Dialogues, Speakers for School, Club and Parlor. Catalogue free.
T. S. DENISON, Publisher, Chicago, Ill.

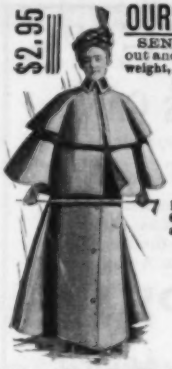
Most Compact Camera Made.

EARN A BAKER FOLDING CAMERA

(Takes 4x5 pictures. Three double plate holders, loaded, printing frame and all chemicals, etc., free.) **By selling Baker's Teas, Etc.**, to the amount of 50 premium pounds. Write us for particulars. *Transportation free.*

W. G. Baker, Dept. S, Springfield, Mass.

$2.95 OUR 1899 MACKINTOSH



SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad. out and send to us, **state your height and weight, bust measure, length of garment from collar down back to waist line, and waist line to bottom of skirt; state color wanted and we will send you this mackintosh** by express **C. O. D.**, subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and by far the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay your express agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $2.95,** and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is made of **BLACK or BLUE genuine RAINLEY double texture, waterproof SERGE CLOTH,** with fancy plaid lining, velvet collar, double detachable cape, extra full sweep cape and skirt, guaranteed latest style and finest tailor-made.

FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of everything in ladies' mackintoshes, **write for free Sample Book No. 85 C.** ADDRESS,
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

$1.95 BUYS A $3.50 SUIT

3,000 CELEBRATED "KANTWEAROUT" double seat and double knee. Regular $3.50 Boys' 3-Piece Knee-Pant Suits going at $1.95.

A NEW SUIT FREE for any of these suits which don't give satisfactory wear.

Send No Money. Cut this Ad. out and send to us, **state age of boy** and say whether large or small for age, and we will send you the suit by express, C.O.D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to suits sold in your town for **$3.50,** pay your express agent **our special offer price, $1.95 and express charges.**

THESE KNEE-PANT SUITS are for boys from 4 to 15 years of age, and are retailed everywhere at $3.50. Made with double seat and knees, **latest 1899 style** as illustrated, made from a **special wear-resisting, heavyweight, ALL-WOOL Oakwell cassimere,** neat, handsome pattern, fine serge lining, **Clayton** patent interlining, padding, staying and reinforcing, silk and linen sewing, **fine tailor-made throughout,** a suit any boy or parent would be proud of. **FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of Boys' Clothing** (suits, overcoats or ulsters), for boys **4 TO 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 90C,** contains fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.

Men's Suits and Overcoats made to order from $5.00 up. Samples sent free on application. **Address,**
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

WAS DEVOID OF HAIR.

MISS EMMA EMOND.

Peculiar Plight of a Salem Girl—Entirely Bald.
What a Free Trial Package of a Remedy Did for Her.

The portraits of Miss Emma Emond show what a striking difference is made in a person when the bald head is covered with hair. Miss Emond was totally bald, the hair follicles not only upon her head but upon her eyebrows being completely contracted, not the sign of a hair being found. Of course she was the object of many experiments, all of which failed, and the offer of a well-known dispensary to send a free trial of their remedy was peculiarly alluring to her. She sent for the free trial, followed all directions faithfully, and soon she was rewarded by a growth of hair, which for thickness, quality and luxuriance was as remarkable as the result was gratifying. Miss Emond lives in Salem, Mass., at 276 Washington St., and naturally feels very much elated to recover from total baldness. An itching scalp to people who are blessed with hair is a sign of coming baldness and should be attended to at once. The remedy that caused Miss Emond's hair to grow also cures all scalp itching and diseases, removes dandruff, and keeps the hair and scalp healthy and vigorous. Trial packages are mailed free to all who write to the Altenheim Medical Dispensary 315 Selves Building, Cincinnati, Ohio.

Don't Shed Hairpins

but buy "**HOLDFAST**" Aluminum Hairpins. The only hairpins that stay where you put them, and will neither fall out, warp, split, break, nor rust. It is the shape of the top that makes them **hold fast.**

THIS IS A "HOLDFAST" HAIRPIN.

Be sure that the hairpin you buy looks like this. Dealers may offer you cheap imitations on which they make more profit. Do not be deceived, but insist on getting the genuine **HOLDFAST.**

Size, 2¾ inches; polished or with black tops. Also 3¾ and 4½ inches, with heavy prongs for braid or bonnet use.

If your dealer will not supply you, send 10 cents in stamps for sample of six small or one large. Mention whether your hair is heavy or light.

Made in white, black, brown, and auburn.

CONSOLIDATED SAFETY PIN CO.
BOX K, BLOOMFIELD, N. J.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR

My Assertion.

An undesirable growth of hair on the face, neck or arms can be removed quickly and future growth prevented. I know whereof I speak, being a **regular physician** and having had **years of experience** with women's troubles. **My success** has led me to publish this announcement for the benefit of those living remote from New York who are suffering the untold annoyance of superfluous hair, and many of whom have wasted time and money in useless preparations.

Harmless and Effectual.

If you will sit down to-day, write me, I will reply to you telling you of the best treatment of superfluous hair I have ever used, and, if desired, will not only **promise to keep the** undesirable **hair from your skin forever,** but will give the same attention to your matter by **correspondence and proper treatment** as if you were to come here to my parlors. Being a woman, I know the delicacy of matters like this, therefore **give you my assurance** that correspondence will be held strictly confidential. **Address,** enclosing two stamps for sealed reply and brochure. Mention THE BLACK CAT in writing.

Mrs. ANNA M. CROSS, M. D.,
No. 3 West 20th St., New York.

Kisses are Sweetest

when taken from mouths that know delicious

Arnica Tooth Soap

Preserves and whitens the teeth, strengthens the gums, sweetens the breath. Is antiseptic, cooling, refreshing. The standard dentifrice for 30 years. 25c at all druggists or by mail.

C. H. STRONG & CO., - CHICAGO, U. S. A.

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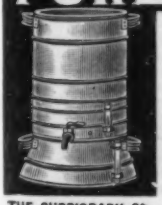


is water free from organic matter which produces disease, and from earthy salts which induce stiff joints, rheumatism and disorders of the kidneys.

The Sanitary Still

produces it (aerated) in any quantity very cheaply and simply. Our $10 Still has twice the capacity of others, and is the only Still recognized by the U. S. Government. Send for booklet.

THE CUPRIGRAPH CO., 141 North Green Street, Chicago.

The Unrivaled Hair Tonic

The Only Dandruff Cure

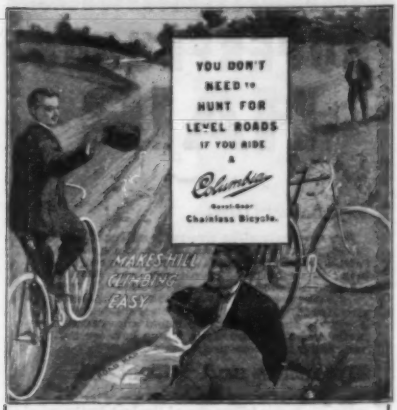
A Sure Preventive of Baldness

Invented by the well-known authority on diseases of the scalp, **Dr. P. J. Eichhoff,** Professor of Dermatology, **Elberfeld,** Germany.

Experience has shown that all other specifics recommended for these purposes have proved failures.

Send for circular.

SOLE U. S. AGENTS,
MÜLHENS & KROPFF, . . NEW YORK.



When you want to ride first-class in a railway train you get in the parlor car. When you want to ride first-class on a bicycle you select a Columbia Chainless, $75. If determined, however, to stick to the chain, see our 1899 Columbia Chain Models 57 and 58, $50; or our Columbia Model 49 with 1899 improvements, $40; Hartfords $35, and Vedettes $25 and $26.

The reputation of our bicycles for corroborating in actual service our advertised claims has been obtained through 22 years of fair dealing. Our 1899 Models are offered at prices but little higher than the price of the poorest.

Why Not Have the Best?

POPE MANUFACTURING CO.,

HARTFORD, CONN.

Drunkenness Cured

It is now Within the Reach of Every Woman to Save the Drunkard.

A TRIAL PACKAGE FREE.

The Remedy Can be Given in Tea, Coffee or Food, thus Absolutely and Secretly Curing the Patient in a Short Time Without His Knowledge.

This cure for Drunkenness has shed a radiance into thousands of hitherto desolate firesides. It does its work so silently and surely that while the devoted wife, sister or daughter looks on, the

MRS. JOHN M. HATTON.

drunkard is reclaimed even against his will and without his knowledge or co-operation. The discoverer of this grand remedy, Dr. Haines, will send a sample of the remedy free to all who will write for it. Enough of the remedy is mailed free to show how it is used in tea, coffee or food and that it will cure the dreaded habit quietly and permanently. Send your name and address to Dr. J. W. Haines, 1021 Glenn Building, Cincinnati, O., enclosing six cents in stamps to cover postage, and he will mail a free sample of the remedy to you, securely sealed, in a plain wrapper, also full directions how to use it, books and testimonials from hundreds who have been cured, and everything needed to aid you in saving those near and dear to you from a life of degradation and ultimate poverty and disgrace.

Mrs. John M. Hatton, of Lebanon, Ohio, who a few months ago cured her husband with Golden Specific, who had been a hard drinker for years, now writes us that she has also cured a near and dear relative and makes a most earnest appeal to all other women to save the drunkard.

Send for a free trial to-day. It will brighten the rest of your life.

SEND US ONE DOLLAR and this ad. and we will send you this big 325-lb. new 1899 pattern high grade RESERVOIR COAL AND WOOD COOK STOVE, by freight C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory and the greatest stove bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the freight agent our SPECIAL PRICE, **$13.00** less the $1.00 sent with order, or $12.00 and freight charges. This stove is size No. 8, oven is 16½x18x11, top is 42x23; made from best pig iron, extra large flues, heavy covers, heavy linings and grates, large oven shelf, heavy tin-lined oven door, handsome nickel-plated ornamentations and trimmings, extra large deep genuine Standish porcelain lined reservoir, handsome large ornamented base. Best coal burner made, and we furnish FREE an extra wood grate, making it a perfect wood burner. WE ISSUE A BINDING GUARANTEE with every stove and guarantee safe delivery to your railroad station. Your local dealer would charge you $25.00 for such a stove; the freight is only about $1.00 for each 500 miles, so we save you at least $10. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc), CHICAGO. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor.)

WRITE FOR OUR BIG FREE STOVE CATALOGUE

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Money Made and Saved

with a **$5 PRINTING PRESS.** Print your own cards, etc. Big profits printing for neighbors. $15 press for circulars or small newspaper. Type setting easy; printed rules. Fun for spare hours, old or young. Very instructive. Send stamp for samples & catalog presses, type, paper, etc., to factory.

KELSEY & CO., Meriden, Conn.

4 Linen Doilies for 10 Cents

We will send to any one, four 6 inch Doilies, beautiful flower designs, together with our 100 page Catalog, on receipt of **10c.**

C. S. DAVISSON & CO., 48 N. 8th St., Philadelphia, Pa. Dept. 83.

HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.

WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any hair at from **65c** to **$3.25**, the equal of switches that retail at $2.00 to $5.00.

OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us, inclose a good sized sample of the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near the roots as possible, inclose our special price quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we will make the switch to match your hair exact, and send it to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will immediately refund your money.

Our Special Offer Price as follows: 2-oz. switch 20-in. long, long stem, **65c**; short stem, **90c**; 2-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, **$1.25**; 3-oz. 23-in. long, short stem, **$1.50**; 3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, **$2.25**; 3½-oz. 25-in. long, short stem, **$3.25.** WE GUARANTEE OUR WORK the highest grade on the market. Order at once and get these special prices. Your money returned if you are not pleased. Write for Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

FOR 26 YEARS

we have sold to the consumer direct at factory prices.

Our goods are not sold through agents or dealers. **We are the largest manufacturers** of vehicles and harness in the world selling on this plan only

We ship anywhere for examination, and guarantee safe delivery Everything fully warranted.

OUR LINE CONSISTS OF

Rockaways, Surreys, Traps, Phaetons, Stanhopes, Driving Wagons, Top Buggies, Open and Top Road Wagons, Spring Wagons, Delivery Wagons, Milk Wagons, Wagonettes, and All Styles of Harness.

Send for our large FREE Catalogue.

ELKHART

Carriage and Harness Manfg. Co.,

W. B. PRATT, Sec'y.

ELKHART, INDIANA.

You Run No Risk

If your bicycle saddle don't suit, get

"THE BERNASCO"

It will suit you because it is shaped right—adjusts itself to any figure. Hygienic in principle, perfect spring motion, properly padded; will not chafe, bruise, irritate nor tire you. Try it and be convinced. Ask dealers for the

Bernasco Saddle

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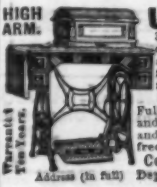

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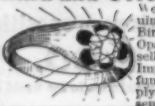

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With or without **Face Steamer.** For Hot Air, Vapor, Medicated, Turkish or General Bathing Purposes at Home. Cures Colds, Rheumatism, Gout, Neuralgia, La Grippe, Female Complaints, All Blood, Skin, Nerve and Kidney Diseases. Reduces Surplus Flesh. Beautifies the Complexion. Size 39 x 1 in. folded; weight 7 lbs. It is not a cloak or sack but a Cabinet supported by a galvanized frame. **Price $5.** Free Descriptive Book. Agents Wanted. MOLLENKOPF & McCREERY 124 Summit St. Toledo, Ohio.

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The Best Untampered 8 Years Old

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On the Only Purely Medicinal Rye Whiskey—Recommended by all Physicians.

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$3.60 FOUR FULL QUARTS Express Prepaid

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We are the only actual distillers selling *a pure, aged, double copper distilled Rye to consumers direct.* Our distilleries have a reputation of 27 years' standing for making **The Finest Rye.** References: Banks, Merchants and all Commercial Agencies. Address Orders to Shipping Dept.

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CURES AILMENTS PECULIAR TO WOMEN

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Endorsed by Every Physician Who Has Used It.

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BE MORE ATTRACTIVE
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Mrs. Susie Woodard."

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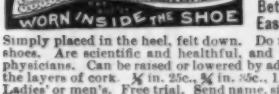

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Simply placed in the heel, felt down. Do not require larger shoes. Are scientific and healthful, and recommended by physicians. Can be raised or lowered by adding or removing the layers of cork. ¼ in. 25c., ¾ in. 35c., 1 in. 50c., per pair Ladies' or men's. Free trial. Send name, size of shoe, height desired, and 2c. stamp for pair on 10 days' trial.
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10¢. 25¢. 50¢.

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Send No Money. Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your height and weight, state number of inches around body at breast taken over vest under coat close up under arms, and we will send you this coat by express, C. O. D., subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00, pay the express agent our special offer price, $2.75, and express charges. THIS MACKINTOSH is latest 1899 style, made from heavy waterproof, tan color, genuine Davis Covert Cloth; extra long, double breasted, Sager velvet collar, fancy plaid lining, waterproof sewed, strapped and cemented seams, suitable for both rain or overcoat, and guaranteed greatest value ever offered by us or any other house. For Free Cloth Samples of Men's Mackintoshes up to $5.00, and Made-to-Measure Suits and Overcoats at from $5.00 to $10.00, write for Free Book No. 80C. Address,

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The cure is complete and permanent, and leaves the patient in a condition of perfect health.

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CURED HIS RUPTURE.

After Suffering Fifteen Years a Maine Citizen Recovers.

Remarkable Discovery of a New Healing System.

People who have been ruptured for some years generally settle down to the notion that they must end their lives in suffering. Usually they have tested all sorts of cures and trusses and give up at last in de-

MR. WALTER J. COLBY, Brunswick, Me.

spair. But now comes a new plan, a radically different system, which says positively that any kind of a rupture, old or recent, bad or slight, can be cured completely and permanently in a very short time. The experience of Mr. Colby is cited as an evidence of what the new plan will accomplish. Mr. Colby was badly ruptured. For fifteen years he lived in constant dread of strangulation. He tried everything known in the truss line and still his rupture was there just as it had been for fifteen years, worse if anything. Some one called his attention to the so-called Dr. Rice system, but he was sceptical. He sent for an explanation of the plan, and this so appealed to his experience and sense of the fitness of things that he could not resist the impulse to try it, sceptical as he was.

The results have more than met expectations, for not only was his severe rupture returned into the abdomen and securely held there, but the cure was absolutely perfect and permanent, enabling him in a few short weeks to do any kind of work without fatigue, bother or feeling that he had ever been ruptured. It is a home cure. No pain nor danger can possibly happen. A person won't lose a moment from work. There is no operation of any kind, and the plan is so certain to cure that every ruptured person ought to know all about it. Dr. Rice has prepared an illustrated book telling about his discovery in a most convincing manner. He sends the book free to all. Write for it. If you know others who are ruptured, tell them to write for this free book, or do so yourself. It will be an act of kindness which they will appreciate. Write to Dr. W. S. Rice, 292 C, Main St., Adams, N. Y.

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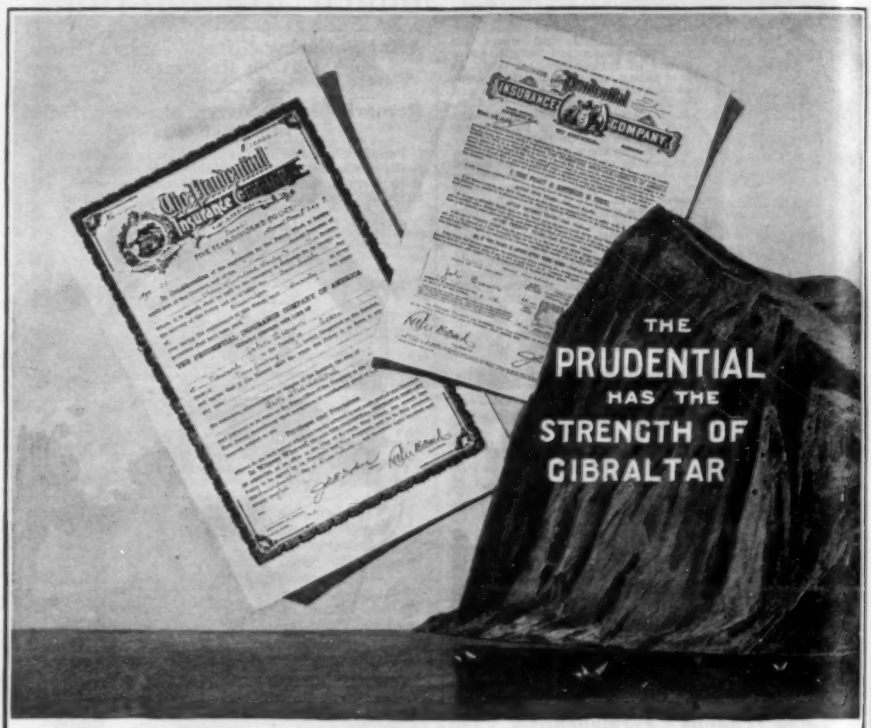

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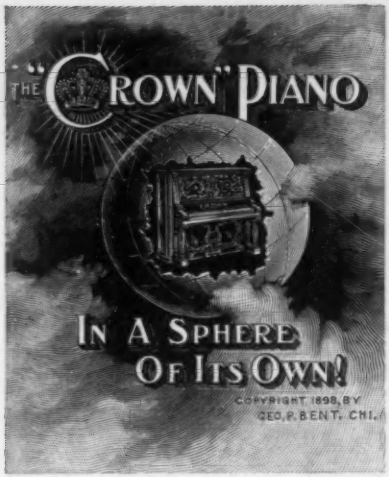

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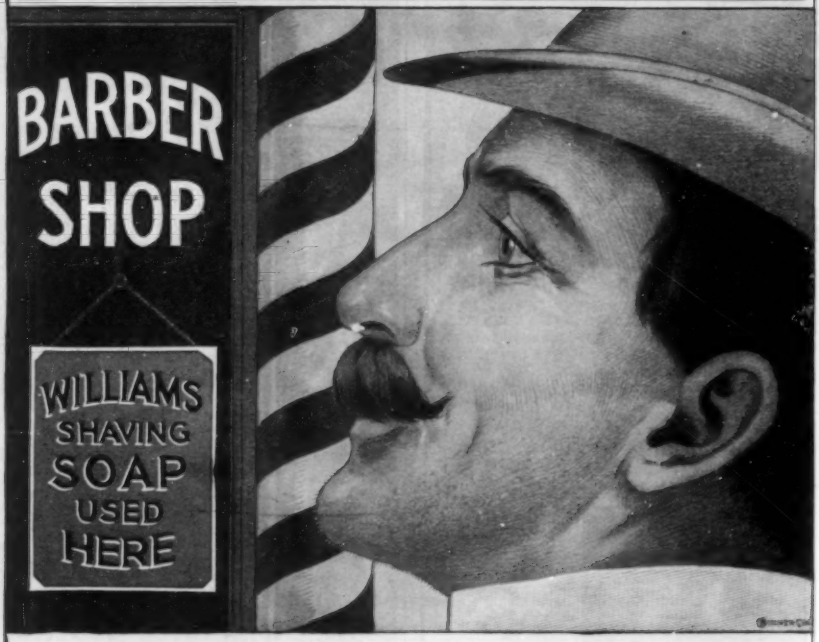

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This wonderful material does not crack or peel, does not rot, never gets sticky, never moulds, has no odor, is difficult to deface, contains no rubber or cellulose, will not burn, is always handsome.

Tested for six years by leading railways and steamship lines, carriage builders and furniture makers, with unqualified success.

The Prince of Wales' yacht "Britannia," the German Emperor's yacht "Meteor," are upholstered throughout with PANTASOTE. Neither salt water, fresh water, sun nor frost affects it. The United States Government has adopted it for all ambulance upholstering.

Made in all standard colors, in plain leather grains or richly embossed patterns.

Enough to cover a dining chair seat sent for 25 cents in stamps. State color.

Sample free. 16 x 5 inches sent for 2 cent stamp and your upholsterer's name and address.

CAUTION! The success of PANTASOTE has produced many imitations. Don't allow dealers to substitute inferior and often worthless and dangerous goods that they make more money on. The word "PANTASOTE" is stamped on the genuine article.

The Pantasote Company,

29 BROADWAY, Dept. K., - NEW YORK CITY.

Columbia Bevel-Gear CHAINLESS $75

The Standard of Chainless Construction. Always ready to ride. Requires no care from the rider aside from oiling and ordinary cleaning of the outside parts.

COLUMBIA, Models 57 and 58 . $50

Highest development of the Chain Type, embodying every possible excellence.

HARTFORDS $35

The new Hartfords show many changes that are of distinct advantage.

VEDETTES . . . $25 and $26

You can't find anything to equal the Vedettes at the same price.

JUVENILE WHEELS in all sizes, from $20 to $25.

Ask any Columbia dealer for Catalog, or write us direct, enclosing 2c. stamp. **POPE MFG. CO.,** HARTFORD, CONN.

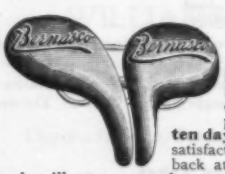
You Run No Risk

If your bicycle saddle don't suit, get

"THE BERNASCO"

It **will** suit you because it is shaped right—adjusts itself to any figure. Hygienic in principle, perfect spring motion, properly padded; will not chafe, bruise, irritate nor tire you. Try it and be convinced. Ask dealers for the

Bernasco Saddle



If they do not have it send us **$2.50** and get one express paid. Use it **ten days**, then if not satisfactory, send it back at our expense, and we'll return your $2.50. *State whether for man or woman.* Write for booklet.

WM. B. RILEY & CO., 324 & 326 Market St., Phila.

YOUR OPPORTUNITY

Investigate and be Satisfied.

We Propose to Purchase New and Original Ideas.

WE build houses and sell real estate: We want new ideas in this line and have appropriated $20,000 to pay for 112 plans or ideas in housebuilding. The sender of the best plan will receive $2,000, others graded downward. If you have good ideas, and have $50 to invest in a good, conservative and safe property of "large promise" in Boston, which will bear close investigation, write for pamphlet, maps, etc., giving full particulars of the division of the above money. We have had offices in one building in Boston for nearly 20 years and are well known. Address FROST BROS., P. O. Box 3696, Boston, Mass.

Wild Flowers in California

Will soon break forth in their annual riot and smother the earth with a blaze of color.

But they are only one of innumerable charms of that summer-land, where thousands of winter tourists have fled from ice and snow, and found a region more delightful than the Mediterranean.

Only 2¾ days from Chicago, and 4 from New York, by The California Limited, Santa Fe Route.

Address General Passenger Office,
The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway,
CHICAGO.

COLORADO
CALIFORNIA

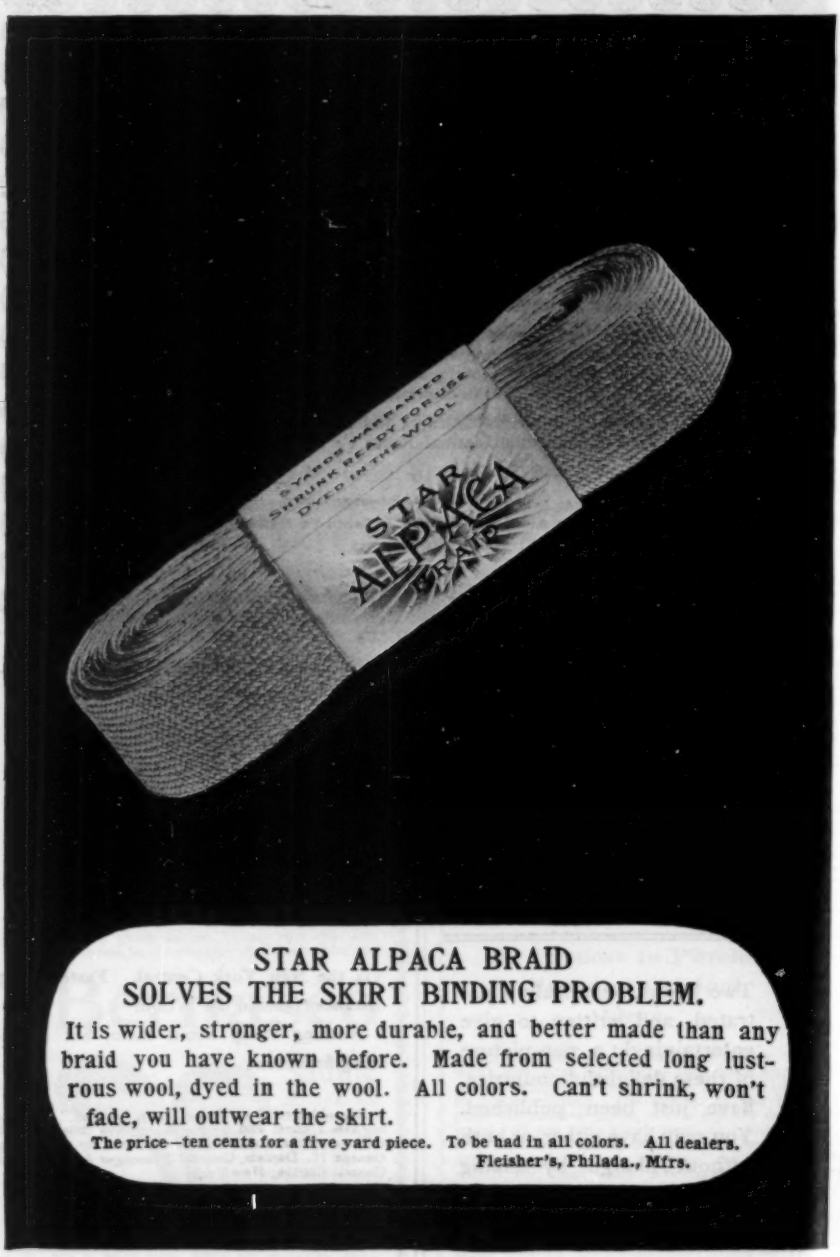
Two books, beautifully illustrated, and written to give entertainingly a pen-picture of these delightful countries, have just been published. You may have either or both without charge by asking P. S. Eustis, Gen'l Pass. Agt., C. B. & Q. R. R., Chicago.

4½ DAYS
NEW YORK TO
SAN FRANCISCO

Via the New York Central. Fastest long distance trains in the World.

Nothing cheap about them, but everything first class.

A booklet on the "Lake Shore Limited," containing also a novel and unique descriptive time table of this wonderful train, will be sent free by addressing George H. Daniels, General Passenger Agent, Grand Central Station, New York.



STAR ALPACA BRAID
SOLVES THE SKIRT BINDING PROBLEM.

It is wider, stronger, more durable, and better made than any braid you have known before. Made from selected long lustrous wool, dyed in the wool. All colors. Can't shrink, won't fade, will outwear the skirt.

The price—ten cents for a five yard piece. To be had in all colors. All dealers.
Fleisher's, Philada., Mfrs.

Restores color to gray hair. Makes hair grow. Stops falling. Cures dandruff.

$1.00. All druggists.
R. P. Hall & Co.,
Nashua, N. H.

"The Renewer will certainly restore gray hair to its original color. I have used this preparation ten years, and with perfect satisfaction."

MRS. SUSAN H. SCOTT, Stoddard, N. H.

SEND ONE DOLLAR

cut this ad out and send to us and if you live East of the Rocky Mountains we will send this **HIGH-GRADE TOP BUGGY** to you by freight C. O. D. subject to examination, you can examine it at your freight depot and if you find it EQUAL TO ANY $100.00 TOP BUGGY you ever saw, perfectly satisfactory and the GRANDEST BARGAIN YOU HAVE EVER SEEN OR HEARD OF, pay the railroad agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE $55.00** and freight charges, less the One Dollar sent with order.

$16.50 TO $90.00 BUGGIES AND SURREYS.

ACME QUEEN. (OUR OWN MAKE.)

BUILT IN OUR OWN FACTORY IN CHICAGO, on honor from the best material money can buy. While in our Free Buggy Catalogue we show, Top Buggies made by other makers at **$21.50, $28.75 and $34.75** the exact same buggy that are sold by machinery dealers, at $45.00 to $75.00 and are being widely advertised by many at $35.00 to $60.00.

OUR ACME QUEEN AT $55.00 is the most wonderful value ever offered, THE LOWEST PRICE EVER QUOTED ON THE BEST BUGGY THAT CAN BE BUILT. We maintain our own five story buggy factory for the sole purpose of building and selling a BETTER BUGGY THAN WE CAN BUY ELSEWHERE and to SAVE OUR CUSTOMERS MANUFACTURER'S PROFIT.

Every Buggy We Make Is Guaranteed Five Years and They Will out wear Five Ordinary Factory Rigs.

THE MATERIAL AND LABOR IN OUR ACME QUEEN cost more than double that in the ordinary factory buggy. We use a $2.50 cushion cloth, some use 90 cent; we use a $1.50 head lining, some use 40 cent, we use 25 cent leather, some use 9 cent, we use $3.50 colors and varnishes, some use 75 cent and $1.00. WE PAY ALMOST DOUBLE the price most makers pay for Wheels, Axles, Springs, Dashes and Sockets, because WE WANT THE BEST. Our wheels, gear and bodies are Water Rubbed and the Material and Labor in Painting **OUR ACME QUEEN,** would paint three cheap buggies.

$55.00 BARELY COVERS COST of material and labor, leaving us the smallest profit imaginable, but we are building 70 buggies a day and to advertise our buggy factory we are willing to SELL THEM ON $1.00 PROFIT EACH. We know $70.00 daily profit on 70 buggies will satisfy us, advertise us everywhere and build up the **LARGEST BUGGY BUSINESS IN THE WORLD.**

THE ACME QUEEN we build in narrow or wide track, cloth or leather trimmed, end springs, buffed leather quarter top, solid panel back, springs in back, leather covered Bows and Nuts, Rubber Steps, Velvet Carpet, body, 24x24 inches, No. 1 Sarven's patent screwed rim wheels, painted in 16 coats, body black, gear dark green with very delicate modest striping, complete with shafts, side and back curtains, boot storm apron and anti-rattlers and shafts. Pole, Neckyoke and Whiffletrees in place of shafts, $1.75 extra. BUGGY WEIGHS 400 POUNDS and the freight will average for 200 miles, $2.00; 300 miles, $2.75; 400 miles, $3.25; 500 miles, $3.60; 1,000 miles, $6.00.

SEND ONE DOLLAR with your order, If satisfactory, pay the railroad agent balance, $54.00 and freight charges, otherwise pay nothing and the agent will return buggy at our expense and we will return your $1.00.

DON'T BUY A CHEAP FACTORY BUGGY now sold almost exclusively by all Machinery Dealers and Catalogue Houses. **BUY THE BEST BUGGY MONEY CAN BUILD,** direct from the Maker at the LOWEST PRICE EVER KNOWN. ORDER TO DAY. DON'T DELAY.

WRITE FOR OUR FREE BUGGY, CARRIAGE AND HARNESS CATALOGUE.

Address **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.**

EARN A BICYCLE!

By selling Baker's Teas among your neighbors, a total of 100 lbs. for Bicycle; 50 lbs., Waltham Gold Watch; 25 lbs., Silver Watch; 10 lbs., Crescent Camera or Gold Ring. *Express prepaid. Write for Catalogue, Order Sheet, &c.*

W. G. BAKER, Dept. S. Springfield, Mass.

THE KIND YOU WANT.

The Lake Shore R. R. while it has second class fares does not run second class cars. All its cars are tip top and models of elegance and comfort. Its day coaches are noted for their high-back seats and in charge of courteous attendants who carefully consider every want on the part of the patrons of the road. Poor people are treated just as well when traveling on this road as their richer companions.

"Big Four" "White City Special"

BETWEEN

Cincinnati, Indianapolis, and Chicago.

ALL TRAINS VIA WASHINGTON

BALTIMORE & OHIO R.R.

WITH STOP-OVER PRIVILEGE

THE "ROYAL LIMITED."

MOST SUPERB DAY TRAIN IN THE WORLD.

DAILY BETWEEN

NEW YORK, PHILADELPHIA, BALTIMORE, WASHINGTON.

LV. NEW YORK 3.00 P.M. AR. WASH'N 8.00 P.M.

LV. WASH'N 3.00 P.M. AR. NEW YORK 8.00 P.M.

EVERY PURCHASER OF A

RAY Camera

Has a chance to obtain a round-trip ticket to the

Paris Exposition in 1900

FREE

Circulars at agencies, or sent by mail, giving full information. *Catalogue FREE.*

RAY CAMERA CO.,

Successors to MUTSCHLER, ROBERTSON & CO.,
165 West Main St., Rochester, N. Y.

Sunart Cycle Vici No. 1

Exact outside measurement of Camera, which takes 4 x 5 pictures, is 5¼ inches by 6 inches by 2¼ inches thick.

Price

$25.00

Tan Cover is waterproof; no fear of rain. Extension Cone Bellows; Vertical and Lateral Adjustment of Front; Removable Ground Glass; Side Curtains for Focusing; Extension Bed for Long Focusing.

If not satisfactory money refunded.

Cameras from $5, $8, and upwards

28 STYLES

Send 2-cent stamp for Catalogue.

SUNART PHOTO CO.,
No. 91 Aqueduct St., Rochester, N. Y.

SOMETHING NEW. This little machine does the finest grades of embroidering now done by hand; uses embroidery silk or cotton; luxurious livings can be earned at home with it. To introduce it, as a special introductory offer we will send a sample machine with full set of stamping patterns for 60 cts., prepaid. The regular price is $2.00. This machine is made of solid German Silver and will never rust or tarnish. A 50-page book of different embroidery designs sent free with each machine. Agents wanted.

Gem Mfg. Co. DEPT. T. St. Louis, Mo.

KODAK

There is no Kodak but the Eastman Kodak.

In nothing does "quality tell," more than in a camera. Simplicity of operation, lenses of remarkable speed and definition, mechanical perfection and accuracy in every detail—these mark the Kodak quality. They make successful picture taking easy, certain.

All Kodaks can be loaded in daylight with our non-breakable film cartridges which weigh but ounces where plates weigh pounds. Seven styles use either films or plates. All Kodaks have sets of three or more stops, shutters for time or instantaneous exposures and can be used as hand or tripod cameras. Kodaks are the standard of excellence in hand-camera construction.

$5.00 to $35.00.

EASTMAN KODAK CO.

Catalogues free at the dealers or by mail. Rochester, N. Y.

Vick's

1849 - 1899.

SEEDS PLANTS & BULBS.

have gone to thousands of satisfied customers for Half a Century.

To celebrate this 50th anniversary, we have issued a special

Golden Wedding Edition of

Vick's Garden and Floral Guide

Garden and Floral Guide 1899

A wonder of Lithographic Art; 24 pages of colored plates of Novelties and Specialties. 112 pages of reading matter, handsomely illustrated with half-tone engravings, elegantly bound in White and Gold.

A marvel in Catalogue-making; an authority on all subjects pertaining to the garden, with care for the same, and a descriptive catalogue of all that is desirable.

This work is too expensive to send indiscriminately, yet we want every one interested to have a copy without cost; therefore will send The Guide and a due bill for 25 cents' worth of Seeds for only 15 cents in stamps.

Vick's Little Gem Catalogue. An illustrated descriptive price-list. Seeds, Plants, Bulbs, etc., taken from THE GARDEN AND FLORAL GUIDE. Mailed to any address **FREE**

Vick's Monthly Magazine, enlarged, improved, and up-to-date on all subjects pertaining to Gardening, Horticulture, etc., 50 cents a year.

Special 1899 Offer: the Magazine, one year, and Vick's Garden and Floral Guide, for 25c.

Our New Plan, inaugurated this year, gives you more for your money than any seed house in America. We also give credit for full amount of your purchase to buy other goods.

See Guide or Gem Catalogue.

James Vick's Sons, Floral Ave. Rochester, N.Y.

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3 FAVORITE FLOWERS 6¢

Sweet Peas—over 40 varieties.
Perfected Royal Show Pansies—100 colors
Nasturtiums—every known good sort.

Above 3 packets mailed for **6** cents and names of two friends who grow flowers; also *Floral Culture*, which tells how to grow flowers from seeds. Daintiest catalogue ever issued of flower seeds exclusively, sent free by the "pioneer seedswoman."

MISS C. H. LIPPINCOTT, Minneapolis, Minn.

ARE YOU humiliated with hair on your face? If you are, write to Modene Mfg. Co., Cincinnati, Ohio. They have been established for years and are doing an immense business. Always mention The Black Cat when writing.

LADIES

I Make Big Wages At Home

and want all to have the same opportunity. It's **VERY PLEASANT** work and will easily pay $18 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will **Gladly** send **full** particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. **Mrs. A. H. Wiggins, Box 96 Lawrence, Mich.**

BURPEE'S

Seeds Grow

and are always the

BEST THAT GROW!

As proved by thousands of trials at our famous FORDHOOK FARMS,—the largest Trial Grounds in America.

BURPEE'S

Farm Annual

for 1899—mailed FREE to all

A handsome **new book of 176 pages;** tells the plain truth about Seeds, including rare Novelties which cannot be had elsewhere. Beautiful colored plates and hundreds of illustrations from nature. Gives practical information of real value to all who would raise the choicest Vegetables and most beautiful Flowers. **Write a postal card TO-DAY!**

W. ATLEE BURPEE & CO., - Philadelphia.

MODERN MIRACLES.

CURING DISEASES WITHOUT MEDICINE IS NOW A STARTLING REALITY.

The way of curing diseases without medicine has been sought after for centuries, but it has remained for Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the great Nevada, Mo., scientist, to discover this astounding secret. That he is performing the cures is abundantly substantiated by the many thousands he has so happily restored to perfect and permanent health. Many of his cures are little short of miracles. Mrs. M. E. Rea, the well known lodge woman of St. Louis, Mo., was a sufferer for many years with catarrh of the stomach and catarrhal gastritis. She tried the best medical talent in the land without any relief and her life hung in the balance. She was permanently cured in two days by Prof. Weltmer. Mrs. Julia Hughes, of 124 S. Main St., Nevada, Mo., had suffered from a multitude of ailments common to her sex; was reduced to a mere skeleton, could not walk and all hope of relief was gone. She was restored in a few days by this performer of modern miracles. Prof. Weltmer also possesses the remarkable ability to cure at a distance and does this with the same ease as when the patient is in his presence at his infirmary. Thousands owe their present good health to this mighty influence. This is positively the only method that will fully restore lost vitality and kindred ailments. Send for a free copy of the Magnetic Journal, a 40-page illustrated magazine, giving a long list of the most marvelous cures on record. Prof. Weltmer also teaches the art of magnetic healing to others and it is the grandest profession of modern times. Address, Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., The American School of Magnetic Healing.

PROF. WELTMER.

Enterprise

Meat and Food

Masticator

Designed for use of Invalids, Dyspeptics, and those with Poor Teeth.

Can be attached to Dining-Table at mea time and Meat and Food of any kind run through on to Dining-Plate **Thoroughly Chopped** into Fine Particles.

Practically in Two Pieces.

Leaves no Meat in the Machine and is Easily Cleaned.

We also make thirty sizes and styles of Meat and Food Choppers for Hand and Power, from $1.50 to $275.00.

Descriptive Catalogue Mailed Free.

Send four cents in stamps for the "ENTERPRISING HOUSEKEEPER"—200 recipes.

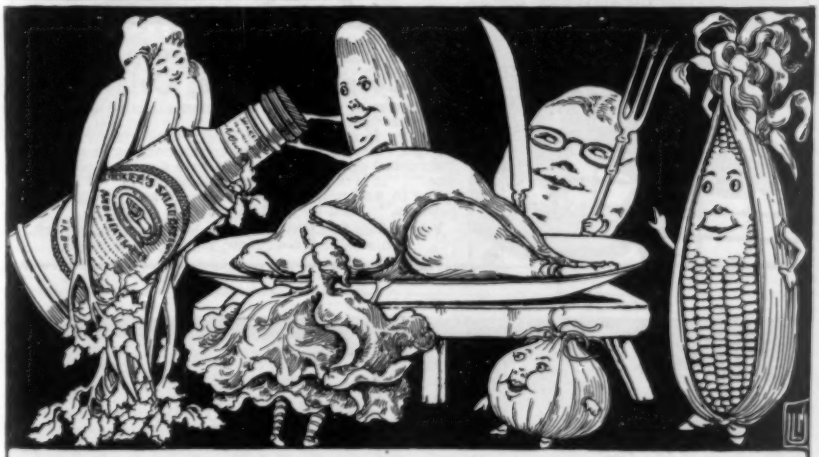
Sent Postpaid to any address in the United States for

$1.00

The Enterprise Mfg. Co. of Pa.

Third and Dauphin Streets,

Sold Everywhere. **Philadelphia, Pa.**



Nothing adds so much to the palatableness, wholesomeness, and healthfulness of a Salad, whether made of Vegetables, Poultry, Fish or Meat, as

Durkee's Salad Dressing and Meat Sauce.

It is a pure, rich, appetizing, Mayonnaise Dressing for all kinds of Salads, and a Delicious Sauce for Cold Meats, Pickled Salmon, etc., etc. Produced by a house that has for years made Salad Dressing a study, and which possesses unequaled facilities for procuring the finest condiments in the world.

Send for FREE booklet on "Salads; How to Make and Dress Them," giving many valuable and novel recipes for Salads, Sandwiches, Sauces, Luncheon Dishes, etc. Sample, 10c. E. R. DURKEE & CO., 157 Water Street, New York.

SEND NO MONEY WITH YOUR ORDER, cut this Ad. out and send to us, and we will send you **OUR HIGH-GRADE BURDICK SEWING MACHINE** by freight C. O. D., subject to examination. You can examine it at your nearest freight depot and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, equal to machines others sell as high as $50.00, and THE GREATEST BARGAIN YOU EVER HEARD OF, pay your freight agent **Our Special Offer Price $15.50** and freight charges. The machine weighs 120 pounds and the freight will average 75 cents for each 500 miles. **GIVE IT THREE MONTHS TRIAL** in your own home, and we will return your $15.50 any day you are not satisfied. We sell different makes and grades of Sewing Machines at $8.50, $10.00, $11.00, $12.00 and up, all of which are fully described in Our Free Sewing Machine Catalogue, but **$15.50** for this 7-DRAWER BURDICK is the greatest value ever offered by any house.

THE BURDICK has every modern improvement, every good point of every high-grade machine made, with the defects of none. Made by the best maker in America. SOLID OAK CABINET, BENT COVER. Latest 1899 Skeleton frame, piano polish, finest nickel drawer pulls, rests on 4 casters, ball bearing adjustable treadle, genuine Smyth iron stand, finest large high arm head made, positive four-motion feed, self threading vibrating shuttle, automatic bobbin winder, adjustable bearings, patent tension liberator, improved loose wheel, adjustable presser foot, improved shuttle carrier, patent needle bar, patent dress guard.

GUARANTEED the lightest running, most durable and nearest noiseless machine made. Every known attachment is furnished and our Free Instruction Book tells just how anyone can run it and do either plain or any kind of fancy work. **A 20-YEAR GUARANTEE** is sent with every machine.

IT COSTS YOU NOTHING to see and examine this machine, compare it with those your storekeeper sells at $40.00 to $50.00, and then if convinced you are saving $20.00 to $35.00, pay your freight agent the $15.50, WE TO RETURN YOUR $15.50 if at any time within three months you say you are not satisfied. ORDER TO-DAY. DON'T DELAY. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

WRITE FOR FREE CATALOGUE. **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.**

Vapo-Cresolene

FOR

Whooping Cough, Croup, Colds, Coughs, Asthma, Catarrh.

Items from physicians' statements in our Descriptive Booklet. Send for it.

"Have found it of such great value in Whooping Cough, Croup and other spasmodic coughs, that I have instructed every family under my direction to secure one." "It is of great value in Diphtheria." "It gives relief in Asthma. The apparatus is simple and inexpensive." Sold by all druggists.

VAPO-CRESOLENE CO., 69 Wall St., New York.
Schieffelin & Co., New York, U.S. Agents.

Send for free booklet and sample of these goods, which delight every housekeeper who appreciates luxury and economy in table service, and clean, comfortable, healthful beds. Sold by all first-class dry goods houses. Address, Knitted Mattress Co., Canton Junction, Mass.

Be sure to mention The Black Cat.

Japan Tea

NATURAL UNCOLORED LEAF.

Possesses invigorating strength, delicacy of aroma and delightful flavor.

Formosa Tea

is acknowledged, the world over, as being the best of all oolong teas.

Every pound guaranteed. Do not steep more than three minutes.

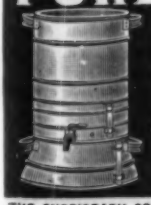
20c. PILLOW TOP
Remember the Maine.

Finest quality navy blue denim, 22 in. square, stamped with an exact reproduction of the "Battleship Maine." Our big catalog of Fancy Work Novelties, handkerchiefs and jewelry sent with each order. C. S. DAVISSON & CO., 48 N. 8th St., Phila., Pa. Dept. 99.

A Book on Cage Birds.

Containing over 150 engravings and a lithographic plate showing all the different kinds of Fancy Canaries in their natural colors, full information in regard to Song, Fancy Canaries and how to breed them for profit. Hints on the treatment and breeding of all kinds of Cage Birds, with descriptions of their diseases and the remedies needed to cure them. All about Parrots and how to teach them to talk. Instructions for building and stocking an aviary. The most complete book of the kind ever published, irrespective of price. Mailed to any address on receipt of 15c. by the Associated Fanciers, 404 N. 3rd Street, Philadelphia, Pa.

PURE WATER



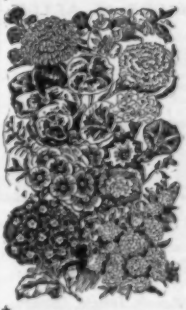
What is so important as Health—impossible without pure water! It postpones age and its infirmities.

The Sanitary Still

is simple, economical, and effectively produces distilled (the only pure) water. Our $10 Still has twice the capacity of others, and is only Still recognized by U. S. Government. Send for booklet.

THE CUPRIGRAPH CO., 141 North Green Street, Chicago.

High-Grade Flower Seeds.



20 Packages Mailed Free. 10c.

Aster, New Japanese (Double).
Pansy, Giant.
Pink, Carnation.
Petunia, Striped.
Sweet Pea, Extra Giant.
Poppy, French Mixed.
Phlox, Beautiful Colors.
Morning Glory, New, Large.
Nasturtium, all Colors.
Marigold, French.
Candytuft, Large.
Sweet Mignonette.
Balsam.
Sweet Alyssum, for Edgings.
Larkspur, Double Rocket.
Zinnia, Double Rich Flower.
Callopsis, Double.
Verbena, Mixed.
Portulaca, Double Mixed.
Four O'Clocks, D'ble Mixed.

All of the above sent to any address, postpaid, for 10c silver or 6 2-cent stamps. As a premium, and to introduce our Seeds into every household, we will also send

A COLLECTION OF BEAUTIFUL BULBS FREE.

ONE OF MANY TESTIMONIALS.

Carrcroft, Del., Dec. 7, 1898.

Somerville Nursery—Dear Sirs: Please send me your new catalogue for 1899 as soon as possible. I received 20 packages of your flower seeds for 10 cents last year, and was very much pleased with them. Wishing your company good success, I am,
Respectfully, Mrs. E. W. Whiteford.

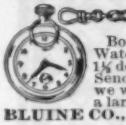
SOMERVILLE NURSERY, Somerville, Mass.

"TRIX"

TRIX CO., ROCHESTER N.Y.

5¢ THROAT RELIEF "TRIX" FRAGRANT AROMATIC BREATH PERFUME

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.



Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 1½ doz. Packages of Bluine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluine, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required.

BLUINE CO., Box A, Concord Junction, Mass.

Women Made Beautiful

by VESTRO. Developes the Bust 6 inches, fills all hollow places, adds grace, curve and beauty to the neck; softens and clears the skin. Beautiful women everywhere owe their superb figure and matchless loveliness to VESTRO. Harmless, permanent. NEVER FAILS. Everylady should have this unrivalled developer. Adds charm and attraction to plainest women. Full particulars, testimonials, etc., sealed for 2c. stamp.

Aurum Medicine Co., Dept. D. A., 55 State St., Chicago.

MLLE. AIMEE'S Face Bleach

TRY IT FIRST. PAY FOR IT AFTER A TEST.

To demonstrate the remarkable beautifying effect of Mlle. Aimee's Face Bleach we will upon receipt of 20c. send a sufficient supply of the preparation to thoroughly convince any lady that Mlle. Aimee's Face Bleach is the most remarkable complexion maker and the only face bleach that absolutely and permanently removes freckles, tan, sunburn, pimples, blotches, pin worms, blackheads, sallowness, crows' feet, or any skin eruption whatever. It produces a clear transparent skin; gives a refined, fascinating complexion, and enhances a lady's loveliness beyond her most extravagant expectations. Do not fail to send 20c. for sample bottle, or 2c. stamp for free book on facial beauty, giving all particulars. Send to-day. Address,

AXENE TOILET CO., Dept. 31, Masonic Temple, Chicago.

CONSUMPTION CURED.

An old physician, retired from practice, had placed in his hands by an East India missionary the formula of a simple vegetable remedy for the speedy and permanent cure of Consumption, Bronchitis, Catarrh, Asthma, and all Throat and Lung Affections; also a positive and radical cure for Nervous Debility and all Nervous Complaints. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all who wish it, this recipe, in German, French, or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail, by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. NOYES, 820 *Powers' Block, Rochester, N. Y.*

$1.95 BUYS A $3.50 SUIT

2,000 CELEBRATED "KANTWEAROUT" double seat and double knee. Regular $3.50 Boys' 2-Piece Knee-Pant Suits going at $1.95.

A NEW SUIT FREE for any of these suits which don't give satisfactory wear.

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THESE KNEE-PANT SUITS are for boys from 4 to 15 years of age, and are retailed everywhere at $3.50. Made with double seat and knees, latest 1899 style as illustrated, made from a special wear-resisting, heavy-weight, ALL-WOOL Oakwell cassimere, neat, handsome pattern, fine serge lining, Clayton patent interlining, padding, staying and reinforcing, silk and linen sewing, fine tailor-made throughout, a suit any boy or parent would be proud of. FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of Boys' Clothing (suits, overcoats or ulsters), for boys 4 TO 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 90C, contains fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.

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SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

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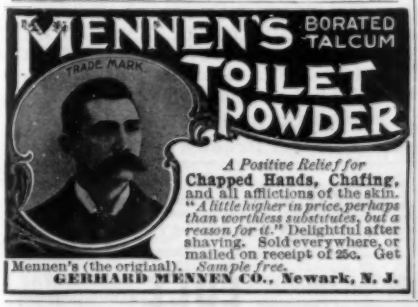

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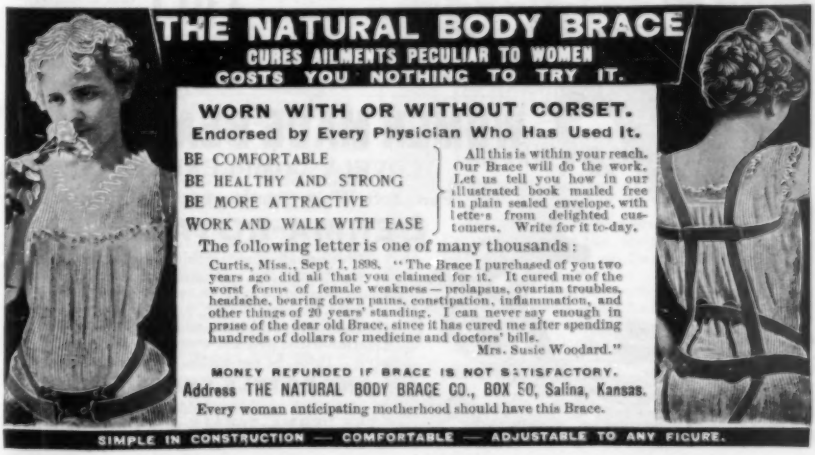

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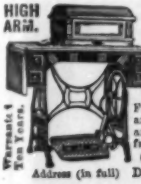

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Invented by the well-known authority on diseases of the scalp, **Dr. P. J. Eichhoff,** Professor of Dermatology, **Elberfeld,** Germany.

Experience has shown that all other specifics recommended for these purposes have proved failures.

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1-lb. Pure Ground Pepper....	.30	1-lb. Ground Cinnamon.....	.40
10-lb. pail White Fish, new and latest catch, wooden pail with bail and handle.	1.00	1-bx. Shoe Blacking.....	.05
		12-bxs. Parlor Matches.....	.20
		1-lb. Pure Ground Mustard..	.50
10 bars Santa Claus Laundry Soap (none better).....	.40	1-pt. bot. Triple Ammonia...	.10
		10-lb. bag Best Table Salt...	.12
¼-lb. Whole Nutmegs.....	.35	1-lb. Best Shredded Cocoanut	.40
1-lb. Cleaned Eng. Currants	.11	½-pt. Triple Extract Lemon.	.80
1 lb. Pure Ground Ginger...	.40	" " " Vanilla.	.80
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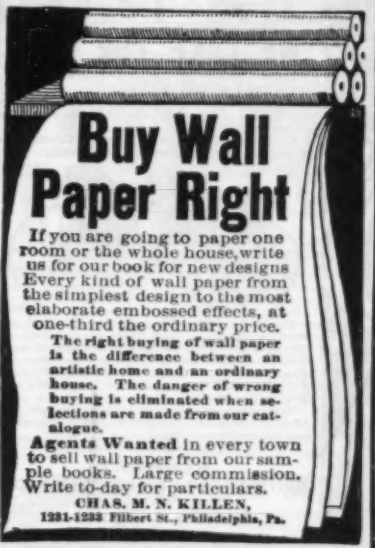

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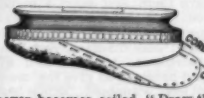
When writing please mention THE BLACK CAT

GILBERT'S SHOE POLISHER.



For Russet, Enamel and Patent Leather Shoes. Three Polishers in One. No More Soiled Hands

Each polisher has three coverings of cotton flannel. When outer cover becomes soiled, "Draw the cord for new polisher."

Clean and polished shoes add more to one's personal appearance than any other article of dress.

Made with nicely polished handle, and sent postage paid on receipt of 25 cents.

GILBERT MFG. CO., 50 Elm St., Rochester, N. Y.

Rupture is Curable

Startling Assertion by a Well Known New Yorker.

Cites the Case of Wm. A. Berry as Absolute Evidence.

Dr. W. S. Rice, of 292 H. Main St., Adams, N. Y. says that any kind of rupture can be cured at the patient's home without the slightest pain, danger, operation or detention from daily work. He gives the names and

MR. WM. A. BERRY, Bristol, N. H.

addresses of several hundred prominent people whom he has cured, one of which, Wm. A. Berry of Bristol, N. H. will serve to show the workings of this wonderful plan. Dr. Rice has devised a new system that holds any rupture no matter how large it is and at the same time causes the ruptural opening to grow together and become solid flesh and muscle. He explains the system fully in a book which he mails free to all who write. Mr. Berry is a business man and well known manufacturer of Bristol and had a difficult rupture for which he had tried electricity, spring and other kinds of trusses, belts and various treatments without benefit.

He had been told by all who fitted trusses that he could not be cured and that a surgical operation, while not a certainty but extremely dangerous, was the nearest approach to a cure. As Mr. Berry had already paid out over a hundred dollars for treatment without the slightest benefit he was somewhat discouraged against trying the new Rice method but finally summoned sufficient courage to make one more effort. Mr. Berry says of the cure. "It is complete; the severed muscles are securely healed. It is eighteen months since I stopped treatment and not a sign of rupture have I had since notwithstanding the fact that I have done all kinds of work with impunity"—This experience will undoubtedly interest every one who is ruptured, and readers should write to Dr. Rice for his free book. Write today and investigate this method that assures a complete and permanent cure of any kind of rupture.

USE GOOD LUCK

PERFECTION CIRCLETTES

which keep the heel from wearing over, and add from 25 to 50 cents to wearing value of shoe. Made of hardened silver steel; driven by a hammer blow. Send 4 cents in stamps for enough for a pair of shoes, or 10 cents for three dozen.

SANFORD MFG. CO.

SUMMER AND HIGH STS., BOSTON, MASS.

Money Made and Saved

with a **$5 PRINTING PRESS.** Print your own cards, etc. Big profits printing for neighbors. $18 press for circulars or small newspaper. Type setting easy; printed rules. Fun for spare hours, old or young. Very instructive. Send stamp for samples & catalog presses, type, paper, etc., to factory.

KELSEY & CO., Meriden, Conn.

$1.95 MEN'S PANTS. SEND NO MONEY.

Cut this ad. out and send to us, state your **HEIGHT and WEIGHT, number inches around body at waist** (pants waist band), **around body at hips, largest part, also length of pants leg, inside seam, from tight in crotch to heel,** state whether you wish **LIGHT, MEDIUM or DARK GOODS.** We will send you these pants (to your measure) by express, C.O.D., subject to examination, examine them at your express office, and if found perfectly satisfactory and equal to pants that others sell at $4.00 to $6.00, pay your express agent our special offer price, $1.95 and express charges. **These PANTS** are made on the latest 1899 patterns, by expert tailors, made from high grade special, wear-resisting, wool pants fabrics, in **LIGHT, MEDIUM or DARK Shades,** finest trimmings, patent never-to-come-off buttons, silk and linen sewing, finest work throughout; 2,000 to go at **$1.95.**

Order at Once. Don't Delay.

We Send Free Cloth Samples of Men's made-to-measure Pants, $1.50 to $4.00; suits $5.50 to $12.00; also tape measure, fashion plates, etc.

Write for Free Sample Book No. 5 E. Address.

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL.

A Rich Whiskey

The Genuine, Aged, Ripened, Pennsylvania Rye, known for 27 years as

Schweyer Penn-syl-vania Rye.

It Comes DIRECT. 8 Years Old.

From its Distiller to YOU.

The entire ripened supply in the immense aging warehouses of our distilleries will be sold *direct to the consumer*, minus wholesale and jobbing and retail profits.

Regarding whiskey it is known only too well that the consumer has long been at the mercy of tampering jobbers and dealers. During the last five years these practices have grown worse continually.

In placing our supply of pure ripened goods out to consumers direct we believe it will *move* quicker; that it will be consumed more quickly, because it won't be *weakened or doctored*, and it will build a peremptory demand among all purchasers for the straight Schweyer goods. Pennsylvania Ryes are famous for their superiority. John Schweyer has helped to make them so. He does not enjoy seeing this reputation abused. It has long been known that *one* barrel of ***genuine*** Schweyer Rye is every day being made into *two* barrels of ***supposed*** Schweyer Rye. We want this stopped.

In this direct offer to consumers, the wrath of a wholesale trade of 27 years standing is openly braved.

But to any family grocer or any high-class liquor dealer who proves to us that he has or is willing to sell Schweyer Rye in its pure untampered form—we will send our check, on every order received from his locality, for the difference between the ***actual distilling and aging cost*** and what we hereby sell it for to consumers as proven by figures taken from our books and attested by affidavits.

Four Full Quart Quarts

lowest price that is possible **$3.60** for aged pure goods.

Express Paid.

A fine Rye Whiskey is the best tonic and medicine on earth. Any physician will tell you that for many depleted conditions nothing in the world can equal it. But the trouble is to get it in a well ripened, aged, mellowed and untampered state.

The people want pure goods. They have proven this. They have been glad to send great distances to get an original package of any fair-grade whiskey.

How Much More They Will Welcome a Distinctly Superior article

is our thought in placing the entire product of our distilleries on the market direct to the consumers and at *direct* prices.

It is up-hill work, starting, of course, but the real Schweyer goods convey so splendid a value at such an extremely close purchasing-price that we fully expect to gain and hold a following sufficient to consume our entire ripened supply.

A trial order at ***$3.60*** will place in your hands 4 quarts of an old ripe, mellow, rich, unblended, natural, pure, delicious Rye Whiskey. Its equal will cost you at least $6.00—and from that up—if lucky enough to ***find*** it in the trade.

If you don't realize this on testing it—send it back—charges ***collect***—we will return your $3.60 *at once.*

JOHN SCHWEYER & CO., Distillers,
(Not in the Trust.)

Chicago Shipping Dept. Twelfth and Laflin Sts.

"Reference" nonsense unnecessary. See our mercantile rating and note the satisfaction we GUARANTEE you.

NOTE TO PHYSICIANS:—The Journal of the American Medical Association (an authority doubtless known to you all) contains the following article in issue of Feb. 11th:—"One of the troubles of the practitioner, when he finds it wise to prescribe the use of whiskey, has long been to be sure of its absolute purity. Since it is so well known that adulteration abounds in the liquor traffic, this is no easy thing. The announcement of an old distillery, long distinguished for its fine product has recently appeared to the effect that its entire supply of ripened goods henceforth will be sold, less both wholesale and retail profits—direct to consumers.

The ryes of this distillery have always sold on their known fineness, purity and proven age. They offer an eight year old rye direct at $3.60 per gallon, bottled in four quarts, and no cost for express. This announcement has recently appeared in the magazines. It is worth looking up as the institution has always borne a first-class reputation for reliability."

PURE WHISKEY

DIRECT FROM DISTILLER TO CONSUMER.

FOUR FULL QUARTS,

EXPRESS CHARGES PREPAID,

For $3.20.

We will send four full quart bottles of Hayner's Seven-Year-Old Double Copper Distilled Rye Whiskey for $3.20, express prepaid. We ship on approval, in plain boxes, with no marks to indicate contents. When you receive it and test it, if it is not satisfactory return it at our expense and we will refund your $3.20.

For thirty years we have been supplying pure whiskey to consumers direct from our own distillery, known as "Hayner's Registered Distillery No. 2, Tenth District, Ohio." No other Distillers sell to consumers direct. Those who propose to sell you whiskey in this way are dealers buying promiscuously and selling again, thus naturally adding a profit which can be saved by buying from us direct. Such whiskey as we offer you for $3.20 cannot be purchased elsewhere for less than $5.00, and the low price at which we offer it saves you the addition of middlemen's profits, besides guaranteeing to you the certainty of **pure** whiskey absolutely free from adulteration.

References—Third National Bank, any business house in Dayton, or Com'l Agencies.

THE HAYNER DISTILLING CO., 601-607 West Fifth St., Dayton, O.

N. B.—Orders for Ariz., Colo., Cal., Idaho, Mont., Nev., N. Mex., Oreg., Utah, Wash., Wyo., must call for 20 quarts, by freight, prepaid.

We guarantee the above firm to do as it agrees to.—EDITOR.

The Revelation

ShortSmoke

LUCKE'S ROLLS

100 in wood box prepaid anywhere for **$1**

Not a smoke for boys and cigarette puffers, but a most highly appreciable SHORT-Smoke treat to men who have been accustomed to the finest imported Vuelta stock.

An exquisite clean Long Filler—A Filler never before equalled in a short smoke—and it is rolled by hand.

Note Clean, Long Stock.

They are made of a most highly choice LONG FILLER.—they're cleaned, dust-blown leaves, hand-rolled, in a wrapper. It is a genuine Porto Rico leaf—a virgin loam soil stock, the choicest grown, and the pride of the Island's planters.

Their immense success in the U. S. in four months' time, has proven the need of a short or "intermediate" smoke of rich quality.

Money back to anyone dissatisfied. Your dollar is not our dollar unless you are glad to get Lucke's Rolls.

J. H. LUCKE & CO.,

Extensive Makers of Choice Special Goods.

LUCKE BLOCK, CINCINNATI, OHIO.

PROFIT IN THIS Magic Lantern and Stereopticon Exhibitions pay well. Small capital needed. 256 page catalog, descriptions and lowest prices of everything necessary, FREE.
McALLISTER, Mfg. Optician, 49 Nassau St., N. Y.

WE ARE SENDING OUT

hundreds of fine Waltham and Elgin watches and $8.00 money orders to the people on our endless chain of private mailing cards. EACH PERSON GETS THEIR WATCH OR $8.00 AT A COST OF 10c. We will enter you in the chain and send you ten mailing cards, with our catalogue, on receipt of 10c, which will be refunded if unsatisfactory. Be the first in your town.

THE PROGRESSIVE WATCH CO.,
Incorporated under the laws of Missouri, Department 3, ST. LOUIS, MO.

For Men, Women and Children. Address, The N. C. & Rubber Mfg. Co., 185 Huron St., TOLEDO, OHIO. Catalogue Free. RUBBER GOODS

BLINDNESS

Prevented and Cured

By the Great "Actina" an Electrical Pocket Battery, which removes Cataracts, Pterygiums, etc., cures Granulated Lids, and RESTORES VISION. Positive proof of cures given. No Cutting or Drugging. 18 years of success. Write for our 80 page Dictionary of Disease, FREE. Address,

NEW YORK & LONDON ELECTRIC ASS'N,
929 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo.

$9.50 BUYS A HIGH GRADE **VICTOR** SEWING MACHINE
Adapted to Light and Heavy Work. Reliable and Finely Finished; Guaranteed for 10 Years. Write for 32 Page Catalogue. Attachments Free. 30 DAYS FREE TRIAL. Address Dept. 603, VICTOR MFG. CO., 296-297 Fifth Ave., Chicago.

THE BLACK CAT presents more entertaining fiction for five cents than a whole year's subscription to other magazines secures.—*Manchester Union.* If you find it in THE BLACK CAT, it's a story that is a story.—*Baltimore American.* THE BLACK CAT introduced a new departure in story-telling, unique, fascinating, attractive, original.—*New York Tribune.*

Solid Silver Manicure Set

No money required. **FREE** Send us your name and address, and we will send you, all charges prepaid, 18 Packets of Everlasting Satchet Powder (*Sweet Sprays of Violets*). Sell them among your friends and acquaintances at only 10c each. When sold send us the $1.80 and we will send you this Elegant Solid Sterling Silver Manicure Set consisting of 3 pieces, i.e., Glove Buttoner, Nail File, Cuticle Knife, all made of best imported Steel, handles of Sterling Silver (925-1000 fine, beautifully engraved. This set is handsomely mounted in a substantial Case, and we will forfeit $100 if not found exactly as represented. Write at once.
OXFORD CO., 152 Clay St., Pawtucket, R.I.

The Utmost Richness of Stock.
A Sensible Method of Make.

The Advanced
New Era Standard of
Cigar-Value.

Send Fifteen Cents for three months' trial subscription to

"THE BOOK-KEEPER"

A handsome 200-page magazine for Book-keepers, Cashiers and Business Men. It will teach you Book-keeping, Shorthand, Penmanship, Law, Short Cuts, Corporation Accounting, Banking, Business Pointers, Amusing Arithmetic, Lightning Calculations, etc., etc. Price, $1 a year. The Book-Keeper Co., Ltd., Dept. 138, Detroit, Mich.

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We teach law by mail. Send five two-cent stamps for first lesson and particulars of our free course. CAPITAL SCHOOL OF LAW, Syracuse, N. Y.

MORPHINE LAUDANUM, and all DRUG HABITS. ONLY PERFECT, PAINLESS, HOME CURE KNOWN. TRIAL SAMPLE FREE. ST. JAMES SOCIETY, 1181 BROADWAY NEW YORK.

TRUSSES 50 PATTERNS DO NOT SHIFT OR CHAFE.

SEELEY'S HARD RUBBER Give relief to all and cure many. Our one-hundred-page book, illustrated, sent free.

CHESTERMAN & STREETER,
Successors to I. B. SEELEY & CO.,
25 South Eleventh Street, Philada., Pa.

PLAYS Dialogues, Speakers for School, Club and Parlor. Catalogue free. T. S. DENISON, Publisher, Chicago, Ill.

GEO. H. GERE YACHT AND LAUNCH WORKS.
FINE CABIN AND OPEN Llaunches
GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.
Gen'l U. S. & Canada Sales Agt. for
MONITOR GASOLINE VAPOR ENGINES

WANTED RELIABLE MEN in every locality, local or traveling, to introduce a new discovery and keep our show cards tacked up on trees, fences, and bridges throughout town and country; steady employment; commission or salary; $65.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES not to exceed $2.50 per day; money deposited in any bank at start if desired. Write for particulars. THE GLOBE MEDICAL ELECTRIC CO., Buffalo, N. Y.

THE LUCKE

ROLLED CIGAR

Porto Rico's Richest Leaf. Hand Rolled Native Style.

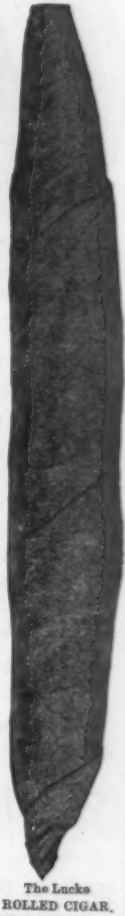
A Grand, FULL Smoke

50 in stout wood BOX

prepaid anywhere for

$1.25

Box of 100 sent prepaid $2.25.



The Lucke ROLLED CIGAR.

Guaranteed equal in flavor, aroma, draft and satisfying qualities to any 2 for 25c. cigar now on sale. They settle the question of cigar-extravagance for connoisseur smokers of high-grade goods. They have the delicate, nut-like richness of taste for which almost prohibitive prices, 15c. straight—3 for 50c.—20c.—and 25c. straight—have always prevailed.

The man to whom the doctored-up flavor of an uncertain cigar-made weed is pleasing,—the man who finds satisfaction in the flat, straw-flavor kind of cigar,—and the man who can enjoy the virulent rankness of the majority of the inferior Havana Cigars of this period,—these are not the class of smokers whose trade we want; because they are not the men who can appreciate the Lucke Rolled Cigar.

THEREFORE WE SAY—to the man with a cultivated cigar taste—we want *you*, and only your kind, to try these goods. We're willing to take all the chances to make you one of our consumers and friends.

We will fill your order under positive agreement to refund your money in full if these goods are not all we claim for them. We prepay delivery cost (and if you are dissatisfied the return cost also).

Surely this is fair and merits the responsive action of any man.

J. H. LUCKE & CO.,

Extensive Manufacturers of Fine Special Goods,

Lucke Block, 209 to 217 Court St.,
CINCINNATI, O.

Twenty-third Annual Statement of

The PRUDENTIAL

January 1st, 1899.

ASSETS.

Bonds and Mortgages	$10,489,318.63
Real Estate	3,557,234.29
Railroad Bonds (Market Value)	9,054,906.25
Municipal Bonds (Market Value)	3,167,718.75
U. S. Government Bonds (Market Value)	111,000.00
Cash in Banks and Office	1,311,107.03
Interests and Rents, due and accrued	308,243.00
Loans on Collateral Securities	30,000.00
Loans on Policies	225,570.52
Deferred Premiums in course of collection	632,097.95
Total	$28,887,196.42

LIABILITIES.

Reserve on Policies	$22,877,071.00
Capital and Surplus to Policy-holders	5,888,894.76
All other Liabilities	121,230.66
Total	$28,887,196.42

The Prudential's Record for 1898 shows remarkable gains in those Departments of its business which add Strength, Progress, and Prosperity.

ASSETS . .	increased to nearly	29 MILLION DOLLARS
SURPLUS . .	increased to nearly	6 MILLION DOLLARS
INCOME . .	increased to over	17 MILLION DOLLARS
INSURANCE IN FORCE	increased to over	414 MILLION DOLLARS
POLICIES IN FORCE	increased to nearly	3 MILLIONS
CLAIMS PAID DURING 1898	on over	43 THOUSAND POLICIES
PAID POLICY-HOLDERS	during 1898 over	5 MILLION DOLLARS
TOTAL PAID POLICY-HOLDERS	to date, over	36 MILLION DOLLARS

THE PRUDENTIAL wrote during 1898 over ONE HUNDRED AND SIXTY-FOUR MILLION DOLLARS of Insurance.

Covering all the plans devised for protection and investment. Full information gladly furnished.

Write **The Prudential Insurance Company**

...of America...

JOHN F. DRYDEN, President. Home Office: NEWARK, N. J.

Particular People

scrutinize black hosiery very carefully before they buy it — they look for the stamp

Louis Hermsdorf Dyer

Hermsdorf Fast Black is the original fast black dye. It has always remained the standard because the hosiery that bears it never crocks, changes color, or loses its lustre. It never varies and is always reliable. Insist on Hermsdorf dye, of which this stamp is the indication, when purchasing black hosiery.

ALFRED PEATS
1899 PRIZE
WALL PAPER

Samples Mailed Free New Floral, Chintz, Damask, Denim, Stripe effects, etc., 5c. to 10c. per roll. Beautiful and high-class Tapestries, Louix XIV., Empire, Byzantine, Moorish, Rococo, Colonial, Embossed Leather, the New Greens and Reds, fine Satin effects, etc., at 10c., 12½c., 15c. and up to 50c. per roll. These superior papers can only be bought from us or our agents. One price everywhere, and **We Pay the Freight.**

An Agent Wanted in every town to sell on commission from our large sample books, showing hundreds of beautiful patterns. We furnish free, handsome advertising signs, illustrated circulars, and refer customers to our agents, who write us for samples. The business pays from the start, for no local dealer can carry one-tenth of the variety of designs and colorings, or sell as cheap. A pleasant and profitable business, requiring no capital or experience. Over 9,000 agents are now selling our papers every year.

For samples or particulars about the agency, write to nearest address.

We will give $1,000 in cash prizes for the five best wall paper designs. Contest closes July 1st, 1899. Book of instructions and full particulars can be obtained of our agents.

ALFRED PEATS PRIZE WALL PAPER

NEW YORK
41-43
W. 14th ST.

ALFRED PEATS & Co

CHICAGO
141-143
WABASH AVE.

THE BARTA PRESS, BOSTON.

The Coming Infantry

Eskay's Albumenized Food

A delicious and nutritious Food, furnishing Ideal Nourishment from Infancy to Old Age. Contains both animal and vegetable matter, viz.: Cereals combined with Egg-albumen; differing from all other foods.

CAPTAIN BRADY, U. S. A., writes Jan. 18, '99: "Our boy, eighteen months old, had as his regular article of diet during our stay in Santiago de Cuba, ESKAY'S FOOD, and I regard **this Food as having been the means of preserving his life.**"

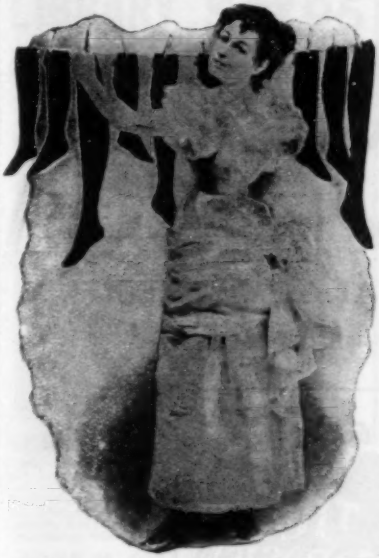
Free sample upon application to

SMITH, KLINE & FRENCH CO., Philadelphia, Pa.

OVER **104,000** NOW IN USE.

FISCHER PIANOS. ESTD 1840.

Offices and Factories:
417-433 West 28th St.
New York.



Look for the stamp

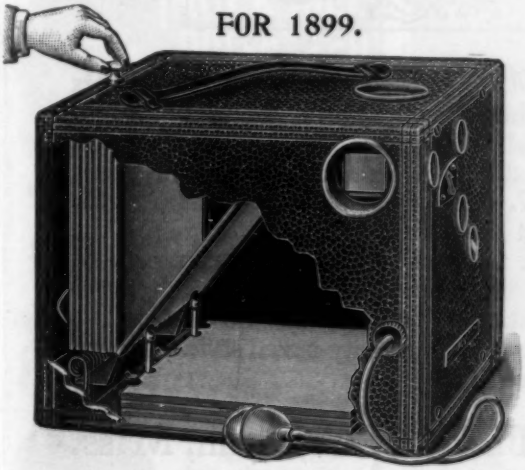
Louis Hermsdorf Dyer

on every pair of black hosiery you buy.

Hermsdorf dye is the original, the perfect fast black. The stamp, Louis Hermsdorf, Dyer, is a guarantee good as gold, that the stocking that bears it will not fade, crock, wash out or lose its color. Hermsdorf dye is the purest, most satisfactory dye used on knit fabrics. Ask your dealer for Hermsdorf dyed goods, and insist that they be stamped as above.

Improved CYCLONE Magazine

FOR 1899.



TEN POINTS TO CONSIDER

1—12 Pictures in 12 Seconds.
2—Shutter Bulb Release.
3—Shutter Automatic.
4—Shutter Locks.
5—12 Aluminum Plateholders.
6—Set stops.
7—Special Quick Lens.
8—Automatic Register.
9—All parts Interchangeable.
10—Exposed plates removed without disturbing unexposed.

The only Magazine Camera with bulb shutter.

All Live Dealers Sell Them.

No. 4—(size 3¼ x 4¼) $8.00
No. 5—(size 4 x 5) . 10.00

1899 Catalogue with complete information—FREE.

WESTERN CAMERA MFG. CO.,

79 Nassau Street, New York. **139 Wabash Avenue, Chicago.**

SOROSIS

The New Shoe for Women

A PERFECT SHOE AT A FAIR PRICE

and the best at any price

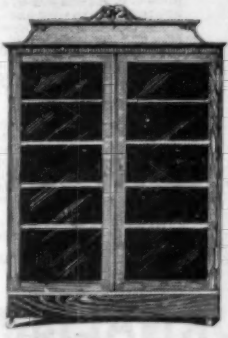
This Trade Mark branded into the sole enables *you* to identify the Sorosis shoe. *Always, Everywhere, $3.50,* excepting in countries where duties are required. Until the price was advertised, this shoe was retailed by reliable firms for $5, $6 and $7. Sorosis make your feet look well, no matter what size you wear, and combine the extreme of style with the perfection of comfort and common sense. All imitations lack the peculiar and remarkable qualities of the genuine "Sorosis."

Our catalogue (shows twenty-seven styles) mailed *free* if you ask for it.

A. E. LITTLE & CO., Lynn, Mass.

52 Blake Street.

LIBRARY BOOKCASE $7.95



Less Than You can Buy it at Wholesale.

Made of selected solid oak or highest grade Birch, Mahogany finished, each pianopolished. It is 60 inches high, 40 inches wide and will hold 150 vols. The interior, back and the adjustable shelves are also highly finished; the ornaments are neatly carved; the glass in doors is 16 x 42 inches; the handles are cast brass.

WORTH $13.50

SPECIAL Our line of Wall Paper is complete in the latest patterns and we retail at wholesale prices. **FREE** Our mammoth catalogue of everything to eat, wear and use sent free on application. It quotes wholesale prices on Groceries, Drugs, Dress Goods, Millinery, Capes Clothing, Hats, Caps, Boots and Shoes, Books Stationery, Harness, Saddles, Trunks, Furniture, Crockery, Bicycles, Sewing Machines, Carpets, Curtains, etc.

JOHN M. SMYTH COMPANY,

Estab. 1867. 150-166 W. Madison St., CHICAGO.

1$ THE INGERSOLL DOLLAR WATCH

The tick of the Ingersoll Dollar Watch is now heard around the world. It marks a new era in the watch history of this country. After years of untiring endeavor we have made possible the fact that watches can be made to sell even as low as $1.00 and still possess the same material, style, accuracy and durability to be found in those of higher cost. Result—the manufacture of the enormous quantity of one million watches per year. Sold by all dealers throughout the U. S. or sent postpaid on receipt of price from the manufacturers. **Robt. H. Ingersoll & Bro.**, Dept. 156, 67 Cortlandt St., N. Y.

Popular Physicians

"If not feeling well, let these three be your doctors: Dr. Diet, Dr. Quiet and Dr. Merryman." Dr. Diet should be consulted first, as he can do most for you. Diet, indeed, is the all-important thing in gaining and retaining health.

A prudent diet should always include Quaker Oats. It is best.

THE EASY FOOD

Quaker Oats

THE WORLD'S BREAKFAST

ACCEPT NO SUBSTITUTE

SINCLAIR PAUL E. DERRICK, ADV'G AG'CY

SOMETHING INTERESTING.

You would not think it just the proper thing to select a farm wagon for park driving, and it would be equally inappropriate to use a trotting wagon for knocking about over rough country roads with a heavy load.

We believe in the "eternal fitness of things," so our designers and mechanical experts have produced a special light roadster, (styles 64-65), adapted for the use of discriminating riders who want a mount affording the maximum of satisfaction and safety with a minimum of weight.

This bicycle weighs 21-22 lbs., depending on equipment, and every fraction of an ounce that does not make for safety has been taken off.

Tire equipment is our new Burwell detachable—the nearest approach to perfection in bicycle tires; more resilient than others; perfectly dependable; you can repair it yourself; no tools required.

The bearings are Mr. Burwell's new Ball and Roller system—dust-proof and self-oiling; under test show a great saving of power and are practically indestructible.

Style 65 in this model is especially recommended for delicate women who tire of riding a heavy wheel.

We would like to tell you more about these and other Clevelands—recognized as ***Standard for Excellence*** the world over. Send for catalog X.

H. A. LOZIER & CO., Mfrs.,
CLEVELAND, OHIO, U. S. A.

BRANCH HOUSES—New York, 337 Broadway; Philadelphia, 830 Arch St.; Chicago, 307-309 Wabash Ave.; Boston, 396 Boylston St.; Buffalo, 615 Main St.; Detroit, 244 Griswold St.; San Francisco, 304-306 McAllister St.; Toronto Junction, Ont.; London W., 24 Orchard St., Oxford St.; Paris, 6 Place de la Madeleine; Hamburg, Neuerwall 36.

CLEVELAND
BICYCLES.

$2.95

OUR 1899 MACKINTOSH

SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad. out and send to us, **state your height and weight, bust measure, length of garment from collar down back to waist line, and waist line to bottom of skirt; state color wanted and we will send you this mackintosh** by express **C. O. D.**, subject to examination; examine and try it on at your nearest express office and if found exactly as represented and by far the greatest value you ever saw or heard of, pay your express agent **OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $2.95**, and express charges.

THIS MACKINTOSH is made of BLACK or BLUE genuine RAINLEY double texture, waterproof SERGE CLOTH, with fancy plaid lining, velvet collar, double detachable cape, extra full sweep cape and skirt, guaranteed latest style and finest tailor-made.

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For Russet, Enamel and Patent Leather Shoes.
Three Polishers in One. No More Soiled Hands.

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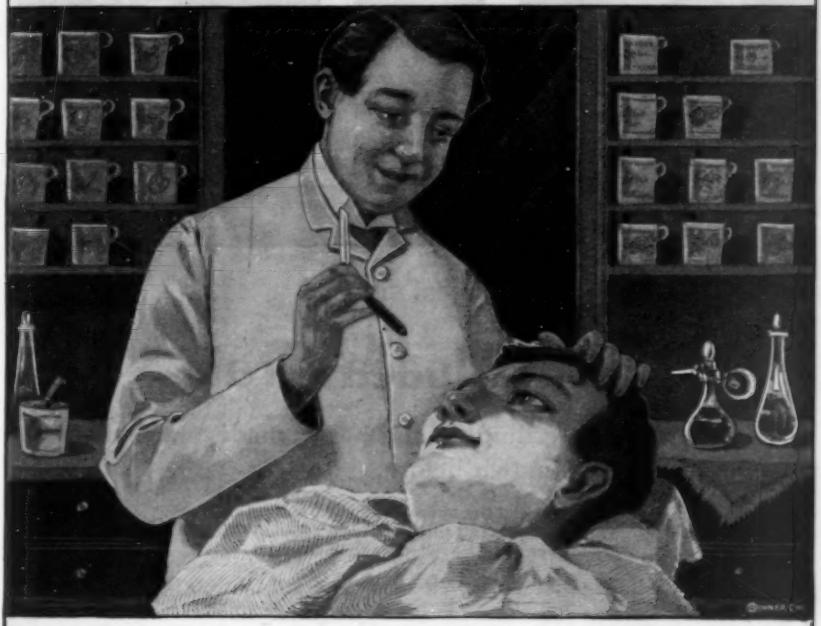

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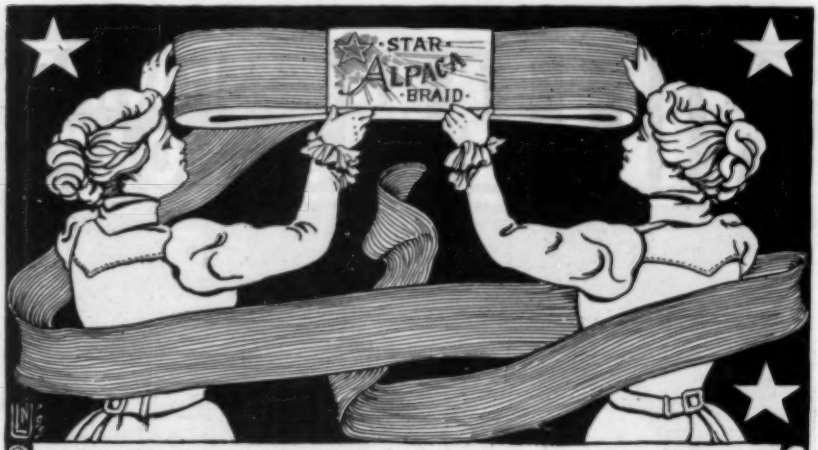

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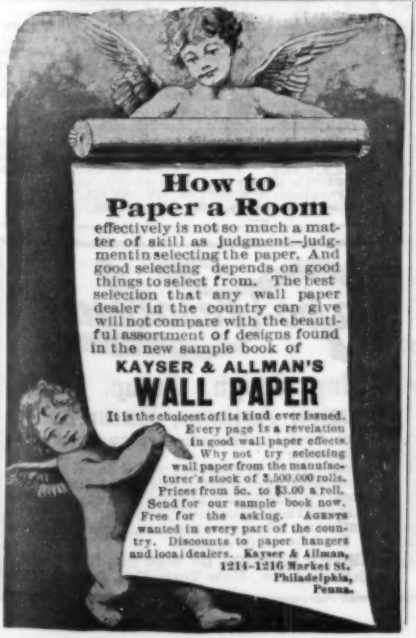

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This shows the machine closed to be used as a center table, stand or desk.

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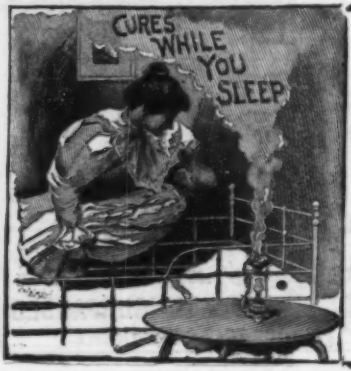

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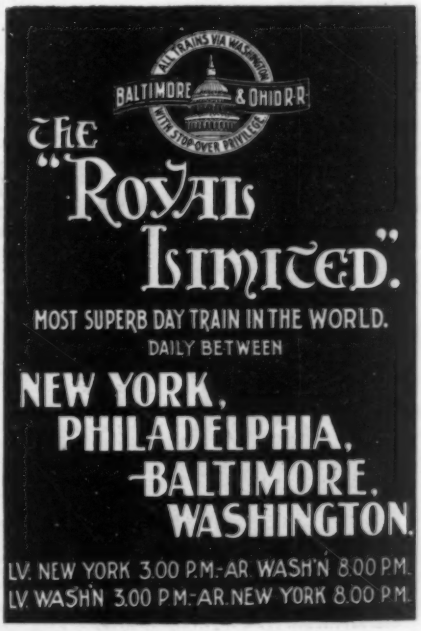

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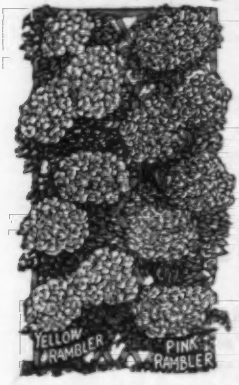

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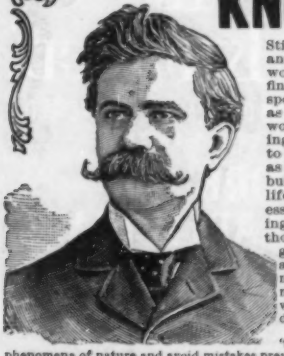

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	Usual Retail Price.		Usual Retail Price.
51-lbs. Best Granlt'd. Sugar	$2.55	5-lbs. Silver Gloss Starch...	.45
3-lbs. Mocha & Java Coffee...	.90	2-lbs. Best Baking Powder..	.80
12 cks. Toilet Soap (10c size)..	.50	1-qt. Bottle Best Blueing....	.15
1-lb. Pure Ground Pepper...	.30	1-lb. Ground Cinnamon.....	.40
10-lb. pail White Fish, new and latest catch, wooden pail with bail and handle.	1.00	1-bx. Shoe Blacking.....	.05
10 bars Santa Claus Laundry Soap (none better).....	.40	12-bxs. Parlor Matches.....	.20
¼-lb. Whole Nutmegs.....	.35	1-lb. Pure Ground Mustard..	.50
1-lb. Cleaned Eng. Currants	.11	1-pt. bot. Triple Ammonia...	.10
1 lb. Pure Ground Ginger...	.40	10-lb. bag Best Table Salt...	.12
3-lbs. Tea (any kind wanted)	2.10	1-lb. Best Shredded Cocoanut	.40
2-lbs. Rice (Japan).....	.20	½-pt. Triple Extract Lemon.	.80
1-bx. Enameline Stove Polish	.05	" " " Vanilla.	.80
2-lbs. Best Corn Starch.....	.17	1-lb. Best Quality Raisins....	.10
1-lb. Pure Ground Cloves...	.40	5-gal. Golden Drip Syrup....	2.00
		Our Price	$16.30
		with Graphophone	$14.75

AT OUR EXPENSE. If the groceries are not as represented return them at our expense and we will refund your money and **you may keep the Graphophone. FREE**—Our big catalogue of everything to eat, wear and use sent free.

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which keep the heel from wearing over, and add from 25 to 50 cents to wearing value of shoe. Made of hardened silver steel; driven by a hammer blow. Send 6 cents in stamps for enough for a pair of shoes, or 10 cents for three dozen.

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A camera making perfect pictures 2½ x 2½ inches

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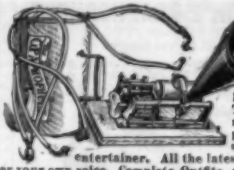

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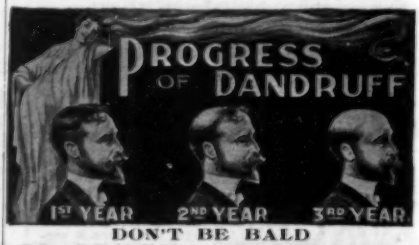

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Cures Itching Scalps, Eczema, Dandruff, Barbers' Itch, Ringworm and all Diseases of the Hair and Scalp. **Your money back if it fails. MAKES HAIR GROW.**

Don't allow disgusting scales of dandruff on your hair and clothing. One application will stop that awful itching.

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RARITAN, N. J., Jan. 30, 1899.

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Alcohol, Opium, Tobacco Using

Produce each a disease having definite pathology. The disease yields easily to the Double Chloride of Gold Treatment as administered at the following Keeley Institutes.

Detailed information of this treatment, and proofs of its success, sent free upon application to any of the following institutions:

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The victim of the disease again and again puts forth the most heroic efforts to reform, but his disease is too absolutely overpowering to be conquered by resolutions. The will-power he would exercise if he could is no longer supreme. Alcoholic stimulants have so congested the delicate nerve cells that they cannot respond to the performance of their functional duties, and the helplessness of the victim's condition is as inexplicable to himself as it seems inexcusable to his friends.

The Keeley treatment cures this disease by restoring the nerves to a perfectly healthy state. **It cures by removing the cause.** The result is that the patient is left in a normal and healthy condition, and he has neither craving, desire, nor necessity for stimulants.

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Cut this ad. out and send to us, SEND NO MONEY and we will send you this watch by express, C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented and in every way equal to watches that are being advertised at $3.75 to $6.75 under such misleading descriptions as Elgin Style, American Style, Gold Filled or Look Like $20.00 to $30.00 Gold Filled Watches, etc. If you find it the equal or better than any of these watches, pay the express agent OUR PRICE, $2.45 and express charges.

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Full set of attachments free; buy from factory and save $10 to $40; **WE PAY FREIGHT**; thousands in use; catalog, showing 20 other styles free. Each machine guaranteed 10 years.

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Laudanum, etc. **Only Perfect and Original Home Cure in the World. Absolutely Painless. Trial Bottle Free.** The cure is complete and permanent, and leaves the patient in a condition of perfect health. We have cured thousands in the last few years and have as many testimonials. Write us in confidence, or if you have a friend addicted to the habit, save him. Incorporated under the laws of New York, 1897.

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To the person or persons counting correctly the tablets we will give **$50.00** in cash. To the nearest correct we wil lgive **$25.00**, to the second nearest correct a **Gold Watch**, to the third nearest correct **$10.00** cash and to all others who count within four of the correct number we will give **One Dollar** prize. If two or more are tied for any of the larger prizes, the same or its equivalent in cash will be divided equally. Everyone has an equal opportunity distance makes no difference. Each contestant must enclose 10 cents (postage) for free box Doree Tablets, a positive cure for Dyspepsia, and Debility. Presents sent this month. Address **Fred Schwartz Chemical Co., Philadelphia, Pa.**

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We will send full information about how to make a simple herbal remedy at home to reduce your weight, and also a sample box securely sealed, in a plain wrapper, free by mail, to any one sending 4 cents for postage, etc. Costs you nothing to try it. Address,

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MLLE. AIMEE'S Face Bleach

TRY IT FIRST. PAY FOR IT AFTER A TEST.

To demonstrate the remarkable beautifying effect of Mlle. Aimee's Face Bleach we will upon receipt of 20c. send a sufficient supply of the preparation to thoroughly convince any lady that Mlle. Aimee's Face Bleach is the most remarkable complexion maker and the only face bleach that absolutely and permanently removes freckles, tan, sunburn, pimples, blotches, pin worms, blackheads, sallowness, crows' feet, or any skin eruption whatever. It produces a clear transparent skin; gives a refined, fascinating complexion, and enhances a lady's loveliness beyond her most extravagant expectations. Do not fail to send 20c. for sample bottle, or 2c. stamp for free book on facial beauty, giving all particulars. Send to-day. Address,

AXENE TOILET CO. Dept. 31, Masonic Temple, Chicago.

"WONDERS OF HYPNOTISM"

By famous authors and scientists—finely illustrated.

SENT FREE

Tells exactly how to master the real secrets of hypnotism, mesmerism, personal magnetism, magnetic healing, etc. **Quickest and surest methods on earth.** Anybody can learn them and exert a magic influence over others. You can make people act, think and feel as you desire; cure diseases, drunkenness, morphine, tobacco and all other bad habits, and also give the most side-splitting entertainments ever witnessed. Brings happiness and health; develops magnetism and will-power; gratifies ambitions; gives the key to business and social success. We will also mail you endorsements of the press, testimonials, financial references, and a copy of our guarantee contract. Address

NATIONAL PUBLISHING CO.,
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MORPHINE LAUDANUM, and all DRUG HABITS. ONLY PERFECT, PAINLESS, HOME CURE KNOWN.

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TRIX CO., ROCHESTER N.Y.

Rice Rupture Cure

Wonderfully Brilliant Invention Sold at a Low Price.

A Home Cure That is Restoring Thousands to Perfect Health — Many Remarkable Instances.

Some time ago Munsey's Magazine contained an article on rupture with a number of illustrations showing the remarkable curative effect of a system invented by Dr. W. S. Rice,

MR. LAWRENCE E. MEYER.

292 N. Main St., Adams, N. Y. Lawrence E. Meyer of Syracuse, N. Y., offers another fortunate instance of the marvelous results of Dr Rice's method. The important points are that the rupture, no matter how large, dangerous or old it may be, is securely and comfortably retained within the abdomen. At the same time the broken muscles are made to grow together and become as firm and solid as any other portion of the abdomen. It is a home cure, the patient using the method himself, and the price is so low that everyone can afford it. Mr. Meyer says of the cure:—"I tried the method of Dr. Rice because it seemed such a vast improvement over anything else I had used and also combined curative effects such as no other rupture treatment contains. Of course I hadn't much faith in the possibility of a cure, but the results are remarkable. Whereas I had been laid up for months before now the rupture did not bother me for a minute. It was only a short time when I couldn't feel any trace of where the rupture had been and I soon was able to work all day as freely as a young man. I advise every ruptured man or woman to send at once and get this method as it will certainly cure permanently and perfectly." Mr. Meyer's advice is good. Upon application to Dr. Rice, he will send you free a book that fully explains how he cures rupture. If you know of another person ruptured send and get a book for him. Such an act of kindness will be remembered all the rest of his life. Write today without fail. Address Dr. W. S. Rice, 292 N. Main St., Adams, N. Y. The book is mailed free to all who send name and address.

$2.50 TAN..... COVERT COAT

A STYLISH SPRING, SUMMER and FALL OVERCOAT AND A WATERPROOF RAIN COAT in one. SEND NO MONEY, cut this ad out and send to us, state your Height and Weight, state number inches around body at Breast taken over coat, close up under arms and we will send you this coat by express C. O. D. subject to examination. Examine and try it on at your nearest express office, and if found exactly as represented, the most wonderful value you ever saw or heard of and equal to any coat you can buy for $5.00, pay the express agent our SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, **$2.50** and express charges.

THIS HANDSOME COAT is made from a genuine HAINSEL plain medium TAN COVERT ENGLISH WATERPROOF CLOTH, lined with a fancy plaid Hainsel waterproof lining, vulcanized by the celebrated Selkirk process, with the best English rubber compound to make it waterproof. IT IS A PERFECT, HANDSOME WATERPROOF MACKINTOSH COAT, and cut short and made single breasted, fly front, makes a very stylish overcoat for Spring, Summer and Fall. While lined and vulcanized for a waterproof Mackintosh, worn as an overcoat, no one can tell it from the most stylish $20.00 Spring Overcoat. Fine Tailor Made, latest style for 1899, fly front, correct overcoat length, velvet collar, sanitary arm fittings. ORDER TO DAY. DON'T DELAY. For Free Cloth Samples of everything in men's tailoring, write for Free Book No. 55.

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DID YOU EVER COLLECT STAMPS?—

There is much pleasure and money in it. For only 5 cents we will start you with an Album and 50 different stamps from Cuba, Phil. Isl., Porto Rico, etc., and our 80-page list, etc We Buy Old Stamps. Standard Stamp Co., St. Louis, Mo

WATCH AND CHAIN FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

Boys and Girls can get a Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm for selling 1½ doz. Packages of Bluine at 10 cents each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Bluine, post-paid, and a large Premium List. No money required.

BLUINE CO., Box A, Concord Junction, Mass.

1899 Bicycles Down to $8.25.

Men's and women's new 1899 model bicycles are now being offered at $8.25 to $24.75 and sent to anyone anywhere for full examination before payment is made. For catalogue and full particulars, cut this notice out and mail to Sears, Roebuck & Co., Chicago.

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150 lbs. for highest grade Bicycle (ladies' or gents'); 125 lbs. for second-grade Bicycle; 100 lbs. for Youths' or Maidens' Bicycle; 75 lbs. for Boys' or Girls' Bicycle; 25 lbs. for Mackintosh or Silver Watch; 30 lbs. for Bookcase or Peek-a-Boo Camera. *Express prepaid. Write for particulars.*

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FROM MAKER TO RIDER.

"The Fowler"

THE FRAME TELLS THE NAME

The One Profit Bicycle.

Why Pay Middlemen's Profits?

Can make immediate delivery.

Send for Catalog.

3 MODELS.

Sunbeam . $41.50

Model 8 . 33.50

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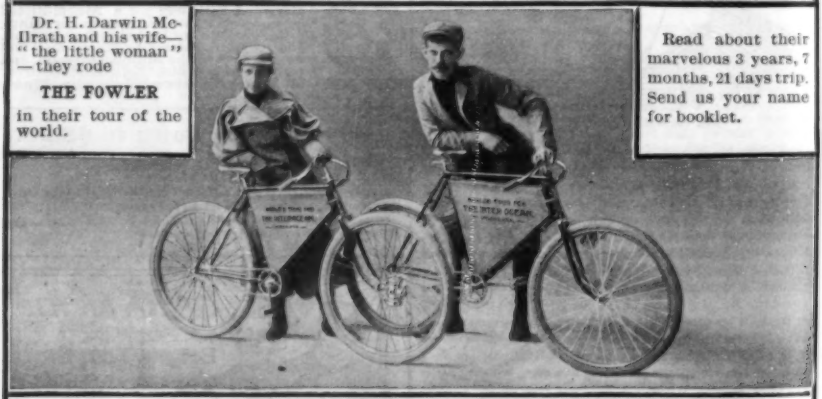
Dr. H. Darwin McIlrath and his wife—"the little woman"—they rode

THE FOWLER

in their tour of the world.



Read about their marvelous 3 years, 7 months, 21 days trip. Send us your name for booklet.

We are the only exclusive bicycle company selling direct to the rider, that *makes* its own *wheels*.

Fowler Cycle Works Co.

136 W. Washington St. - - Chicago, Ill.

$4.95 SUIT

SEND NO MONEY

cut this Ad out and send to us, say COLOR WANTED, state your Height, Weight, Number Inches Around Body at Bust, at Waist and Length of Skirt from Waist to bottom in front, and we will send you THIS FINE TAILOR MADE SUIT by express C.O.D. subject to examination, you can examine it at your express office and if found Perfectly Satisfactory, Exactly as Represented, A PERFECT FIT, such a stylish dress as you could not get in your town, and WORTH TWICE AS MUCH as suits advertised by others at about our price, pay your express agent

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE, $4.95 and express charges.

THIS SUIT is made from a GENUINE HEISLER ENGLISH WOOL REPELLENT CLOTH, in either Black, Navy Blue or Brown, cut in the Latest Style for 1899 by EXPERT CUTTERS from a Genuine Stainor Model, fine tailor made throughout. If you don't find this suit has a destinctiveness in STYLE, FIT, GRACEFUL SHAPE, MATERIAL, WORKMANSHIP and FINISH, not to be had elsewhere, return it at our expense.

SKIRT is very full sweep, lined with fancy Percaline, bottom bound with Mohair Braid Skirt Binding, fancy strap trimming in front, back is handsomely finished with neat buttons and Case Cording, and welted seams in back.

JACKET is one of the Handsomest Shown This Season, single breasted, tight fitting back, lated sleeves, lined with Genuine Serailk, handsomely trimmed and finished.

BEWARE OF IMITATORS who copy our advertisements and promise you goods like ours. Write to friends in Chicago and learn who are reliable, and who are not, ask your neighbors, ask any one about us. Write for Free catalogue of Ladies' and Childrens' Clothing. Address,

SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., Chicago.

PLENTY OF TRAINS.

Lack of train service is said by Europeans to be the only one poor feature of American travel. Those who know will agree that the Lake Shore Railway is not remiss even in this respect. Not only are its trains the latest product of car builders' skill but it runs more of them than any other western line. Travelers between Buffalo, Cleveland, Toledo, Chicago and all points in west and south-west should buy their tickets over the Lake Shore.

$1.80 NO MONEY DOWN.

Cut this ad. out and send to us, state age of boy and say whether large or small of age and we will send you this BOYS' KNEE PANT SUIT (for boys from 4 to 15 years of age) by express, C. O. D. subject to examination. You can examine it at your express office and if found perfectly satisfactory, exactly as represented, the grandest value you ever saw, far better than boys' suits advertised by small houses at more money and equal to suits your storekeeper asks double our price, pay your express agent Our Special Offer Price, $1.80 and express charges.

THESE SUITS are made from a Genuine Wilder Scotch Cassimere, a wear resisting wool fabric, woven expressly for children's garments, good weight, light, medium or dark shades, handsome patterns, fine serge lining, Clayton padding, staying and re-inforcing, silk and linen sewing, fine tailor made in latest 1899 style, a suit any boy or parent would be proud of.

FOR FREE CLOTH SAMPLES of everything in Boys' Clothing for boys 4 to 19 YEARS, write for Sample Book No. 15E, contains fashion plates, tape measure and full instructions how to order.

MEN'S SUITS AND OVERCOATS MADE TO ORDER FROM $5.00 UP. Samples sent free on application. Address,

Sears, Roebuck & Co. (Inc.), Chicago.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR

My Assertion.

An undesirable growth of hair on the face, neck or arms can be removed quickly and future growth prevented. I know whereof I speak, being a **regular physician** and having had **years of experience** with women's troubles. **My success** has led me to publish this announcement for the benefit of those living remote from New York who are suffering the untold annoyance of superfluous hair, and many of whom have wasted time and money in useless preparations.

Harmless and Effectual.

If you will sit down to-day, write me, I will reply to you telling you of the best treatment of superfluous hair I have ever used, and, if desired, will not only **promise to keep the** undesirable **hair from your skin forever**, but will give the same attention to your matter by **correspondence and proper treatment** as if you were to come here to my parlors. Being a woman, I know the delicacy of matters like this, therefore **give you my assurance** that correspondence will be held strictly confidential. **Address**, enclosing two stamps for sealed reply and brochure. Mention THE BLACK CAT in writing.

Mrs. ANNA M. CROSS, M. D.,
No. 3 West 20th St., New York.

MAHLER LIQUID HAIR DISSOLVER

No preparation that was ever invented is more miraculous in results obtained than is this wonderful liquid. It is a boon to American womankind.
Mrs. J. H. Starbuck,
Atlanta, Ga.

The **Mahler Liquid Hair Dissolver** is the result of the research of a noted German chemist. It is the **only** preparation that will remove hair from the face, **neck or arms without risk or injury.**

No blemish is so annoying as a disfiguring growth of hair. The Mahler Liquid Dissolver never fails to give entire satisfaction.

Many ladies pay large sums for removing superfluous hair, and find after a short time that the hair begins to grow again. One bottle of **Dissolver** would have given the same results with the difference that the effects would have been permanent.

Many gentlemen use the Dissolver in preference to shaving. No hair is too coarse or thick to withstand this wonderful preparation.

OUR GUARANTEE OFFER.

To introduce our **"Dissolver"** where it is as yet unknown, we will upon receipt of one dollar send you, all charges prepaid, our regular $2.00 bottle in a plain sealed package, free from all observation and comment. Stamps taken if paper money or P. O. Order are not convenient. Money cheerfully refunded if not satisfactory.

We mail our catalogue of Toilet Requisites with every order. Order to-day as this offer is made for a limited time only. All correspondence strictly confidential and **Dissolver** sent securely sealed from observation.

B. C. MAHLER, - - Providence, R. I.

DR. B. F. BYE SANATORIUM, 227 NO. ILLINOIS ST.

Cancer Cured

With Soothing Balmy Oils.

Cancer, Tumor, Catarrh, Piles, Fistula, Eczema, and all skin diseases.

Cancer of the nose, eye, lip, ear, neck, breast, stomach—in fact, all internal or external organs or tissues—cured without knife or burning plasters, but with soothing aromatic oils.

Cut this out and send it for an illustrated book on the above diseases. Home treatment sent when desired. Address [mentioning THE BLACK CAT],

DR. B. F. BYE, P. O. Box 246, Indianapolis, Ind.

SEND 50 CENTS Cut this ad. out, send to us and we will send you this GUITAR by express, C.O.D., subject to examination. Examine it at your express office, and if found exactly as represented and the most wonderful bargain you ever saw or heard of, pay the express agent Our Special Offer Price, $2.95, less the 50 cts. or $2.45 and express charges. THIS IS A REGULAR $6.00 GENUINE TROUBADOUR MAHOGANY FINISH GUITAR, highly polished, beautiful inlaying around sound-hole, American patent head, best nickel-plated tail-piece, powerful and sweet toned, extra set of genuine Glendon strings and a Guckert book of chords which teaches anyone how to play. Write for free musical instrument and organ and piano catalogue. We sell Violins at $1.75 and up. Mandolins $2.95 and up. Banjos $1.24 and up. Organs $22.00 and up. Pianos $125.00 and up. Everything at lowest wholesale prices, and all subject to examination before paying. Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.

(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable—Editor)

Cancer and Tumor Cured without the aid of knife or plaster, and without pain.

A treatise, testimonials and letter of advice free. Address,

Vegetable Cancer Cure Co.,

CHATHAM, N. Y.

The finest sanitarium in America.

BIG ILLUSTRATED CATALOGUE FREE!

THIS BIG ENCYCLOPEDIA is our catalogue for spring and summer of 1899. It is 9x12 inches in size, contains thousands of quotations and illustrations, the handsomest, most complete and lowest priced catalogue ever published. **NAMES THE LOWEST WHOLESALE CHICAGO PRICES ON EVERYTHING** in Clothing, Cloaks, Dresses, Boots, Shoes, Watches, Jewelry, Stoves, Ranges, Buggies, Carriages, Sewing Machines, Bicycles, Organs, Pianos, Musical Instruments, Drugs, Photographic Goods, etc. Tells just what your storekeeper at home must pay for what he buys and will prevent him from overcharging you on what you buy; explains just how to order, how much the freight, express or mail will be on anything to your town.

THE BIG BOOK COSTS US NEARLY $1.00.

OUR FREE OFFER. Cut this advertisement out and send to us with 10c. in stamps to help to pay the postage and the Big Book will be sent to you FREE by mail postpaid, and if you don't say it is worth 100 times the 10 cents you send, as a key to the lowest wholesale prices of everything, say so, and we will immediately return your 10 cents.

WHAT THE PRESS SAYS ABOUT THIS CATALOGUE:

"It is a monument of business information."—Minneapolis (Minn.) Tribune.

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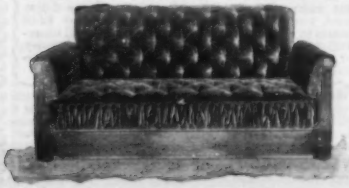
"A law should be passed compelling the use of this catalogue in all public schools."—The Hon. G. A. Southtoun.

We could quote thousands of similar extracts. SEND 10 CENTS AT ONCE and you will receive the book by return mail.

Address, SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.), CHICAGO, ILL., U.S.A.



The Leonard Sofa Bed

A Luxurious Sofa, Couch length, instantly convertible into a large, soft, hair mattress bed, with large drawer for bedding. 20 pounds of pure hair and 100 finely tempered steel springs in every one. 10 styles, any length. Freight prepaid. Returnable if unsatisfactory. Catalogues free.

THE LEONARD SOFA BED CO.,

410 Erie Street, - - - Cleveland, O.

Four Full Quarts for $3.20

EXPRESS PREPAID

DIRECT FROM DISTILLER TO CONSUMER.

We will send four full quart bottles of Hayner's Seven-Year-Old Double Copper Distilled Rye Whiskey for $3.20, express prepaid. We ship on approval, in plain boxes, with no marks to indicate contents. When you receive it and test it, if it is not satisfactory return it at our expense and we will refund your $3.20.

For thirty years we have been supplying pure whiskey to consumers direct from our own distillery, known as "Hayner's Registered Distillery No. 2, Tenth District Ohio." No other Distillers sell to consumers direct. Those who propose to sell you whiskey in this way are dealers buying promiscuously and selling again, thus naturally adding a profit which can be saved by buying from us direct. Such whiskey as we offer you for $3.20 cannot be purchased elsewhere for less than $5.00, and the low price at which we offer it saves you the addition of middlemen's profits, besides guaranteeing to you the certainty of PURE whiskey, absolutely free from adulteration, at first cost.

REFERENCES:—THIRD NATIONAL BANK, ANY BUSINESS HOUSE IN DAYTON, OR COM'L AGENCIES.

THE HAYNER DISTILLING CO., 601-607 W. Fifth St., Dayton, O.

N. B.—Orders for Arizona, Colorado, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Oregon, Utah, Washington, Wyoming, must call for 20 quarts, by freight, prepaid.

We guarantee Hayner will do just as agreed.—EDITOR.

The Only
Just-for-a-few-Minutes
or "Short" Smoke of Rich Quality

Lucke's Rolls

Note Clean, Long Stock.

Porto Rico's Richest Leaf
Hand Rolled, Native Style

100 in stout wood box prepaid anywhere for **$1.00**

They are not "cute" looking tiny abominations of rankness. They have won American recognition as the only praise-worthy short-smoke product ever introduced.

An exquisite clean Long Filler--a Filler never before equaled in a Short-smoke--and it is Rolled by Hand.

The short-smoke goods previously known to the American smoker have been neither tasteful or cleanly and would never be regarded as inviting in any sense. Although often attractive in external appearance, they are made of dusty scrap fillers, the offal of cigar factories, the floor and bench sweepings, tobacco "saw dust" as it were, bought up from cigar factories all over the country by parties who make a business of it, and sold to those who machine-make them into little cigar and all-tabacco cigarette form. Consequently, although put up in the most alluring packages, they have never found much favor with intelligent smokers.

Lucke's Rolls are not only made of a LONG-FILLER, but it is a long-filler stock admittedly the finest obtainable in the world—three leaves of it—stemmed—cleaned—dust blown—and hand-rolled in a wrapper. It's a virgin loam soil growth of Porto Rico, the choicest raised. In only five months time they have been immensely successful throughout the entire United States, far outselling the short-smoke goods on the market for years. Their taste has Pleased thousands dissatisfied with flat straw-flavor cigars and thousands unable to stand the virulent rankness of the inferior Havana cigars of this period.

Remit price only—we pay delivery cost. Money back to any one dissatisfied.
Your dollar is not our dollar unless you are ***glad*** to get ***Lucke's Rolls.***

J. H. Lucke & Co. Lucke Block, 209 to 217 Court St. **Cincinnati, O.**

Extensive Manufacturers of Fine Special Goods.

The Advanced New Era Standard of Cigar Value

Ordinary 2 for 25c—15c Straight and 3 for 50c values fully equaled in flavor, aroma and superior satisfying qualities.

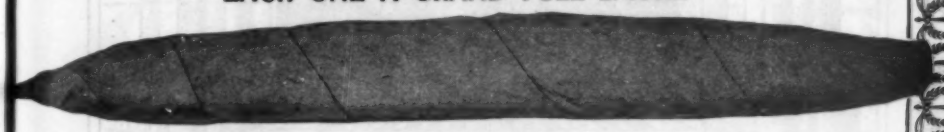
This is the kind of value that is guaranteed you, in

50 in stout wood box **$1.25**
Delivery prepaid by us.

100 in stout wood box **$2.25**
Delivery prepaid by us.

THE LUCKE ROLLED CIGAR

EACH ONE A GRAND FULL SMOKE



A FREE DRAFT QUICK ROLL of Choicest Leaf from Porto Rico
A Stock the Pride of the Island's Planters

Our Opportunity and We Grasp It

Such a stock as this, in a slow-made sleek, paste-finished, cigar, would find some sale at high prices. But we have utilized our advantages for a broader purpose. Instead of shipping a few bales, we have bought up all of this special leaf obtainable in Porto Rico. Instead of putting a few dozen men at work we have at work nearly 3,000. **WHY? BECAUSE we are after every real consistent smoker in America**—the kind who know what it is to pay 25c straight for cigar-satisfaction; and we are after them with a roll of stock at a price that makes everyday smoke-enjoyment no criminal extravagance. It means great national trade. There's where WE come in.

SEND FOR A BOX—every day you put it off you are losing money, probably also smoking goods that far from satisfy your real desire in tobacco-flavor.

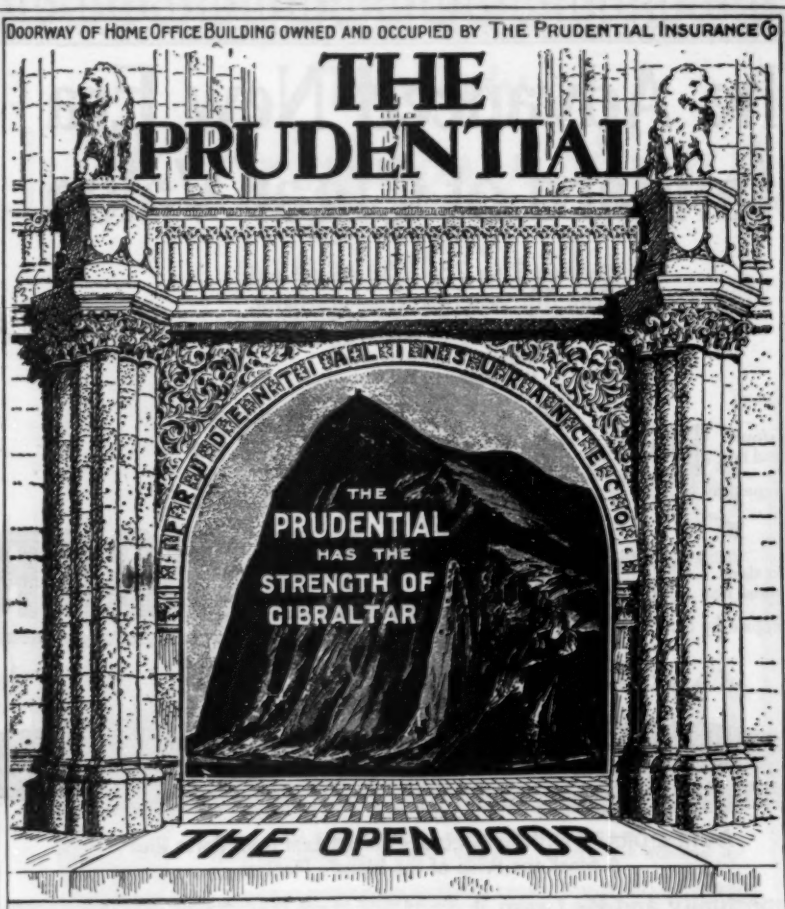
Send for a Box and Smoke a Few

If to your taste they're not eloquent arguments for "colonial" development—if not equal in flavor, draft and true satisfying qualities, to any 2 for 25c or 3 for 50c cigar you can buy—your money is on call—we will return same at once.

Remit price of goods only; we prepay express.

J. H. Lucke & Co. Lucke Block, 209 to 217 Court St. **Cincinnati, O.**

Most Extensive Makers in the World of Special Smokers.



TO PROTECTION, PROFIT, AND INDEPENDENCE IS FOUND IN LIFE INSURANCE

which makes provision for your family, provides safe and profitable investments, enhances your credit, and improves your standing in the community.

Profit-Sharing { Ordinary Policies, $500 to $50,000 / Industrial Policies, $15 up } *on the most approved plans.*

Write for full Information. THE PRUDENTIAL INSURANCE COMPANY OF AMERICA.

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Purity

Schlitz beer is even cooled in plate glass rooms—in filtered air. Then we filter the beer. Then each bottle is sterilized after it is filled and sealed. The purity is absolute.

Age

Schlitz beer is aged for months in refrigerating rooms before it leaves the brewery. Beer insufficiently aged is called "green beer," and that lack of age causes biliousness.

Skill

Every process in the making of Schlitz beer is in charge of men who learned brewing under the world's greatest masters—men who have practised it for from twenty to thirty years—men who are partners in the business.

Healthfulness

For fifty years Schlitz beer has been the standard in all that makes beer healthful. No care is too extreme, no cost too great that adds a whit to purity, and purity is everything.

DICTIONARY FREE—We will send you a 200-page up-to-date Webster Pocket Dictionary, upon receipt of a two-cent stamp to pay postage.
Address SCHLITZ, Milwaukee, Wis.

THE BARTA PRESS, BOSTON.

"The One of many Tones."
Other Pianos are "Single-toned" Instruments. No other like it. No other equal to it.

"Crown" Piano is the highest type of the modern pianoforte. It stands squarely on its merits and courts the most critical examination and closest comparison. It is sure to please and satisfy you. Warranted ten years, and warrant is **"Burnt in the back"** of each instrument. Write for catalogue with music free. Bent makes **"Crown"** Church and Parlor Organs too. **Catalogue for the asking.**

GEO. P. BENT, Manufacturer,
Bent Block. Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.

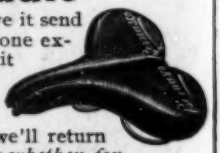
You Run No Risk

If your bicycle saddle don't suit, get

"THE BERNASCO"

It **will** suit you because it is shaped right—adjusts itself to any figure. Hygienic in principle, perfect spring motion, properly padded; will not chafe, bruise, irritate nor tire you. Try it and be convinced. Ask dealers for the

Bernasco Saddle



If they do not have it send us **$2.50** and get one express paid. Use it **ten days**, then if not satisfactory, send it back at our expense and we'll return your $2.50. *State whether for man or woman.* Write for booklet.

WM. B. RILEY & CO., 324 & 326 Market St., Phila.

The Coming Cavalry

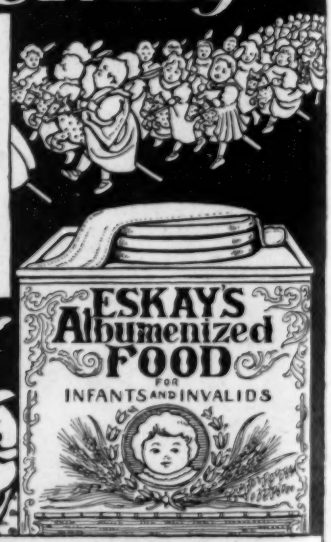
A Mother's Gratitude.

Mrs. N. E. Humphrey, Detroit, Mich., Jan. 16, '99, writes:

"We tried several different foods with our two weeks' old boy, but he kept getting worse until it developed into catarrh of the bowels. When three months old he weighed only nine pounds, one pound less than at birth, and every one said he could not live. We tried ESKAY'S FOOD *with the result that his bowels became regular, and he has gained every week since, and now at four and a half months weighs sixteen pounds, 'hale and hearty.'*"

Eskay's Albumenized Food

contains both Animal and Vegetable matter, viz.: Egg-Albumen combined with Cereals; differing from all other foods. A delicious and nutritious food furnishing Ideal nourishment from Infancy to Old Age.



Free sample upon application to the manufacturers

Smith, Kline & French Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

OVER **104,000** NOW IN USE

FISCHER PIANOS.

ESTD 1840

Offices and Factories:
417-433 West 28th St.
New York.

Bottled Purity

This is the process that every bottle of Schlitz beer goes through before it leaves the brewery.

The materials are selected by experts. The barley and hops used are the finest that money can buy.

The barley is malted and the beer brewed under the personal supervision of men who have spent 30 years in perfecting the process—men who now own the business.

The cooling is done in plate glass rooms to which air is brought through air filters.

Then the product itself is filtered.

Then it is aged in refrigerating rooms—aged for months. Schlitz beer is never "green beer"—the kind that causes biliousness.

Then it is bottled and sealed—then sterilized in the bottle.

That is why Schlitz beer is recognized as pure beer Cost, care, skill and time are all carried to extremes to insure its absolute purity.

DICTIONARY FREE. We will send you a 200-page up-to-date Webster Pocket Dictionary, upon receipt of a 2c. stamp to pay postage. Address, SCHLITZ, Milwaukee, Wis.

Cheap Tickets to California

Will be sold in late June and early July by the **Santa Fe Route,** at the time of the N. E. A. Convention in Los Angeles.

Liberal stop-overs, choice of return routes and long limit.

Particulars furnished on application.

The Santa Fe Route is 24 to 36 hours shorter to Los Angeles than any other.

Address General Passenger Office,
The Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe Railway.
CHICAGO.

DON'T SEW ON BUTTONS.

Bachelor's buttons made with improved Washburne Patent Fasteners slip on in a jiffy. Press a little lever—they hold like grim death—but don't injure the fabric. Instantly released when desired. By mail, 10 cents each. Illustrated catalogue showing collar buttons and other useful novelties made with these fasteners, free on request.

AMERICAN RING CO., P. O. Box 76, Waterbury, Conn.

School of JOURNALISM

INSTRUCTION BY MAIL ONLY.

A thorough and scientific course adapted to the individual needs of writers. Long established. Responsible. Successful. Instructors experienced and competent. Students successful and pleased. Best of references. Write for descriptive catalogue. It is sent free. Address,

Sprague Correspondence School of Journalism,
No. 89 Telephone Bldg., Detroit, Mich.

A $5 Printing Press

Prints all your own cards, labels, circulars, etc. Saves you money. Send for catalogue to makers, KELSEY & CO., Meriden, Conn.

Niagara Metol Hydro Developing Powders

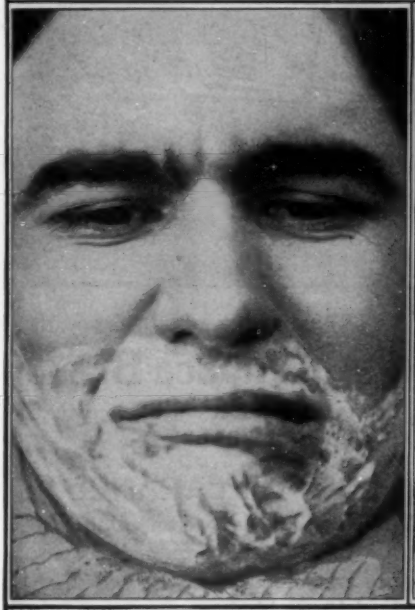
FOR DRY PLATES OR EASTMAN'S FILMS. Packed one dozen pairs in a box, sufficient for 48 ounces Developer. **Price, 50 cents.** Postage prepaid.

Sample Powders, sufficient for 4 ounces Developer and a book entitled "THE ART OF PHOTOGRAPHY," containing 32 pages of valuable information for the amateurs, will be mailed, postage prepaid, to any address upon receipt of 10 cents in stamps or coin. *Regular price of Book alone, 25 cents.*

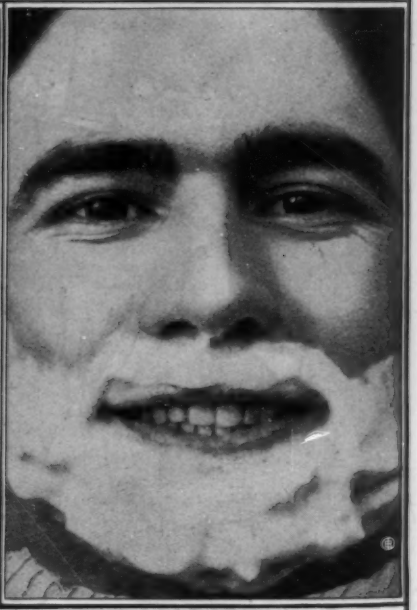
THE NIAGARA CAMERA CO.,
331-333 Main Street, - - Buffalo, N. Y.

The tick of the Ingersoll Dollar Watch is now heard around the world. It marks a new era in the watch history of this country. After years of untiring endeavor we have made possible the fact that watches can be made to sell even as low as $1.00 and still possess the same material, style, accuracy and durability to be found in those of higher cost. Result—the manufacture of the enormous quantity of one million watches per year. Sold by all dealers throughout the U. S. or sent postpaid on receipt of price from the manufacturers. **Robt. H. Ingersoll & Bro.,** Dept. 156, 67 Cortlandt St., N. Y.

WILLIAMS' SHAVING SOAP



This is how he looked when he tried a substitute for Williams' Soap, which his dealer urged upon him.



This is his expression when he had again procured the "Old Reliable" Williams' Shaving Soap.

DON'T be persuaded to buy something represented to be "just as good as WILLIAMS' SHAVING SOAP, and a little cheaper." The dealer may make a trifle more, but you'll be sad. Instead of the Big, Thick, CREAMY Lather, and the SOOTHED, REFRESHED, VELVETY FEELING of the face, that comes after shaving with WILLIAMS' SOAP, the chances are that you'll get one of the thin, frothy, quick-drying kinds that dull the razor and leave your face parched and drawn and smarting, if nothing worse.

It DON'T PAY to take chances on SHAVING SOAP. 99 out of every hundred men will tell you that WILLIAMS' are the ONLY PERFECT shaving soaps.

Williams' Shaving Soaps are used by all first-class barbers, and are sold everywhere.

Williams' Shaving Stick, 25 cts. Luxury Shaving Tablet, 25 cts.
Genuine Yankee Shaving Soap, 10 cts. Williams' Glycerated Tar Soap, 15 cts.
Williams' Shaving Soap (Barbers'), 6 round cakes, 1 lb., 40 cts. Exquisite also for Toilet. Trial tablet for 2-cent stamp. By mail if your dealer does not supply you.

THE J. B. WILLIAMS CO., GLASTONBURY, CONN.

The Skirt Problem Solved!

The binding of a skirt with

Star Alpaca Braid

gives in effect and service what women hold as ideal.

FOR APPEARANCE

it is lustrous and unfading. It gives the skirt a refined appearance impossible with coarse or clumsy binding.

FOR WEAR

it outdoes the skirt. It knows neither ravel nor fading, does not rub the shoes, gather dirt, or sweep the street. Dyed in the wool and shrunk for use.

FOR COST

it is not too expensive for any skirt. Five yard pieces sell everywhere for 10 cents.

Fleishers, Philada., Mfrs.

Star Alpaca Braid

MELLIN'S FOOD

EARL FRANCIS WATTS

The enclosed picture of my baby boy, Earl Francis Watts, was taken when he was eight and one-half months old and weighed twenty-five pounds.

I have never had any trouble whatever with his feeding, as he always retained his Mellin's Food and has had no illness more than a cold.

I do not hesitate to recommend Mellin's Food and do so at every opportunity.

Mrs. Charles E. Watts,
146 Green Street, Cambridge, Mass.

When artificial feeding becomes necessary for your baby use Mellin's Food; it is the perfect substitute for mother's milk.

A sample of Mellin's Food will be sent free upon request.

MELLIN'S FOOD COMPANY, BOSTON, MASS.

Columbia Hartford and Vedette Bicycles for 1899

COLUMBIA BEVEL-GEAR CHAINLESS. It is always ready to ride because the running gear takes care of itself. Nothing to entangle or soil the clothing *because it has no chain.* The best hill-climber because bevel-gearing never cramps or twists under strains. Price **$75.**

COLUMBIA CHAIN MODELS have improved frame connections, specially cut sprockets which prevent sliding of the chain, 3/16-inch chamfered chain, black and gold rims and other new and distinctive features. Price **$50.**

HARTFORDS contain many improvements, including frames of the latest design, flush joints, internal expanders, and crank-shaft construction which does away with the keyed-on crank. **$35.**

VEDETTES are built of excellent material and are in every way adapted to those who desire the first wear of a new bicycle at a moderate cost. Men's, **$25;** Ladies', **$26.**

Art Catalogue of any Columbia dealer or by mail for one 2-cent stamp.

POPE MANUFACTURING COMPANY, Hartford, Conn.

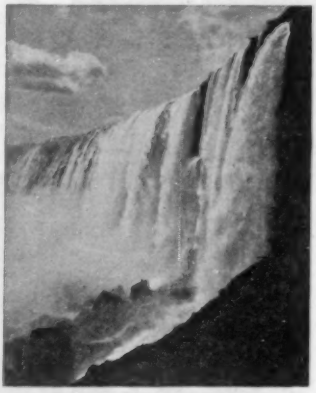
A Week at Niagara.

You can go to Niagara Falls from your home in the Mississippi Valley, see the greatest natural wonder of the world, recuperate your strength by a week's summer outing, and return home at a total cost of $50, including railroad fare, hotel bills and all necessary expenses. If you live east of the Mississippi and north of the Ohio River, it will cost you less than $50; if southwest of this territory, but little more.

Our booklet, *"Lake and Sea,"* suggests

Summer Tours, $20 to $100,

illustrates them with beautiful photo-gravures and half-tones, and gives valuable information to the contemplating summer vacationist. It is free.



Give us some idea of how long you can take for your summer outing, how much you want it to cost you, etc. Ask for any information you may desire about any trip you have in mind. We will cheerfully answer any and all questions, and can make suggestions from the experience of others which will save you money and enhance the pleasure of your summer outing. We may be able to suggest just the trip you have been looking for. It will cost you but two cents postage. Address,

SUMMER TOUR DEPARTMENT, WABASH RAILROAD,
1010 Lincoln Trust Building, ST. LOUIS.

With

Durkee's Salad Dressing and Meat Sauce

anybody can prepare a Perfect Salad of Vegetables, Poultry, Fish or Meat.

It is a pure, rich, appetizing Mayonnaise Dressing for all kinds of Salads and a Delicious Sauce for Cold Meats, Poultry, Fish, etc. Produced by a house that has for years made Salad Dressing a study, and which possesses unequaled facilities for procuring the finest condiments in the world.

Free. Send for free booklet on "Salads: How to Make and Dress Them," giving many valuable and novel recipes for Salads, Sandwiches, Sauces, Luncheon Dishes, etc. Sample, 10c.
E. R. DURKEE & CO., 157 Water Street, New York.

PANTASOTE

EXACTLY RESEMBLES MOROCCO LEATHER

but costs only half as much.

Unequalled for Library, Dining Room, Club Room, and Office Furniture.

This wonderful material does not crack, peel, or rot, never moulds, never gets sticky, defaces with difficulty, will not burn, is always handsome. Tested for six years by leading Furniture Makers, Carriage and Yacht Builders, Steamship and Railway lines, with unqualified success.

Enough to cover a chair seat 18 x 18 inches sent for 25 cents in stamps.

Free sample 15 x 6 inches sent for 2 cent stamp and your upholsterer's address.

CAUTION! There are worthless imitations, genuine has "**Pantasote**" stamped on goods.

PANTASOTE CO., 29 Broadway, Dept. K, New York City.

AN EXPLANATION.

A few days ago we received a letter containing the following:

"I believe the Cleveland is the best bicycle built, but I don't see why you cannot sell it as cheap as other wheels."

Our correspondent came very near answering his question before he asked it when he expressed the conviction that "the Cleveland is the best bicycle built"; however, this reason for disparity in prices between the Cleveland and others may not be so evident to the limited number of riders who have not tested Cleveland quality, so we offer this explanation, viz.: Our jurisdiction extends over the manufacture and sale of Cleveland bicycles only and we have had so much experience with this bicycle that when we make prices we know just how to give the rider full value for his money. We have never requested or even desired other manufacturers to cut under our prices, but they have done this in the past, are doing it now and will doubtless continue to do so in the future. We can only accept this condition of affairs as an acknowledgment that Cleveland bicycles, being Standard for Excellence, must sell for more money than inferior goods.

We shall continue to maintain a disparity in quality between Cleveland Bicycles and others advertised to be "just as good"—our competitors will attend to the disparity in price.

The Cleveland is the only bicycle equipped with Burwell Detachable Tires, Burwell Ball and Roller Bearings (dust-proof), Ballhead Direct Spokes, and Cleveland Hardened Block and Pin Chain. Our catalog A explains these features. Send for it. It's free.

CLEVELAND BICYCLES.

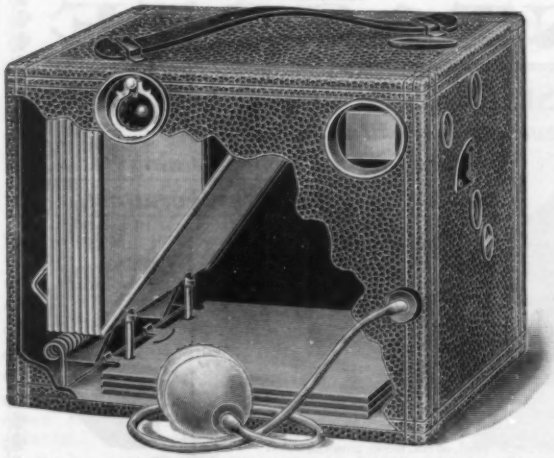
H. A. LOZIER & CO., Mfrs.,

CLEVELAND, OHIO, U. S. A.

BRANCH HOUSES—New York, 317 Broadway; Philadelphia, 830 Arch St.; Chicago, 307-309 Wabash Ave.; Boston, 399 Boylston St.; Buffalo, 615 Main St.; Detroit, 244 Griswold St.; San Francisco, 304-306 McAllister St.; Toronto Junction, Ont.; London, W., 24 Orchard St., Oxford St.; Paris, 6 Place de la Madeleine; Hamburg, Neuerwall 36.

Improved Magazine Cyclone Cameras

1899 Model.



Make Amateur Photography Easy and are the Best

- *Aluminum Plateholders.*
- *Exposed Plates are removed without disturbing Unexposed.*
- *Detachable Bulb Release.*
- *Automatic Shutter.*
- *Automatic Register.*
- *Three Diaphragms.*
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- *Lowest Price for best quality.*

No. 4—For Pictures 3¼ x 4¼ . . $8.00 No. 5—For Pictures 4 x 5 . . $10.00

Our $5 4 x 5 Camera is the best ever put on the market for the money. It has not the conveniences nor improvements of our higher-priced cameras, but if $5.00 is your limit, do not think of purchasing until you see what we have to give you. Sample picture mailed for 5 cents. Send for '99 catalogue.

All Live Dealers Sell Them.

Western Camera Mfg. Co. { 139 Wabash Ave., Chicago. { 79 Nassau St., New York.

There is no Kodak but the Eastman Kodak.

By the

KODAK SYSTEM

FILM CARTRIDGE.

of film photography the instrument loads and unloads in broad daylight.

The film is put up in cartridge form and is perfectly protected from light by a strip of black paper extending the full length of the film and several inches beyond each end.

To load: simply insert this cartridge in the Kodak; thread up the black paper; close the camera and give the key a few turns, thus bringing the film into position.

The picture taking may then begin. The roll of a dozen exposures being completed the black paper covers all, and the cartridge can be removed as easily as it was inserted.

Film Cartridges weigh ounces where plates weigh pounds and are non-breakable. All Kodaks use light-proof film cartridges and load in daylight.

Kodaks $5.00 to $35.00.

EASTMAN KODAK CO.

Catalogues free at the dealer's or by mail.

Rochester, N. Y.

TIME TRIED by years of successful use, the

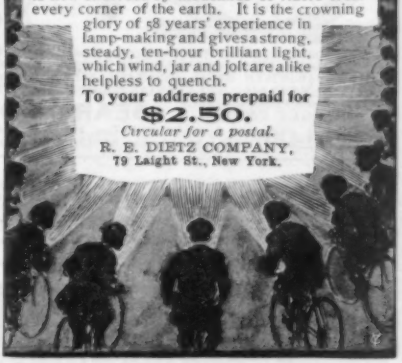
is now endorsed by thousands of riders from every corner of the earth. It is the crowning glory of 58 years' experience in lamp-making and gives a strong, steady, ten-hour brilliant light, which wind, jar and jolt are alike helpless to quench.

To your address prepaid for

$2.50.

Circular for a postal.

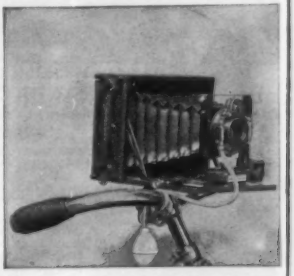
R. E. DIETZ COMPANY,
79 Laight St., New York.



Sunart Cameras

Cycle Vici No. 1.

Compact, measures 5⅞ x 5¼ x 2¼. Takes pictures 4 x 5. Lens guaranteed. All latest improvements. Waterproof cover, tan, brown or black. Price, including carrying case with one plateholder, $20.



Ask your dealer to show

Sunart Automatic Tripod.

SUNART CAMERAS all sizes.

Prices, $5.00 to $100.00.

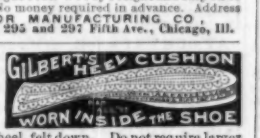
Send 2c. stamp for 1899 catalogue.

SUNART PHOTO CO., *91 Aqueduct St., Rochester, N. Y.*

$2.45 buys a MAPLE AND REED BODY **Baby Carriage**

32 page Catalogue Free. We Pay Freight and ship on 10 days trial. No money required in advance. Address VICTOR MANUFACTURING CO., Dept. H 46, 295 and 297 Fifth Ave., Chicago, Ill.

Easy Walking, Increased Height, Arched Instep. Better Fitting Shoes, Ease and Comfort.



Simply placed in the heel, felt down. Do not require larger shoes. Invisible, durable, healthful, recommended by physicians. Raised or lowered by adding or removing layers of cork. ¼ in. 25c.; ½ in. 35c.; 1 in. 50c. per pair. Ladies' or Men's.

READ Send name, size of shoe, height desired, and 2c. stamp for pair on 10 days' trial.

GILBERT MFG. CO., 50 Elm St., Rochester, N.Y.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING

at home, $1.50 per day, four months' work guaranteed. Send stamped addressed envelope for full particulars.

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TO YOUNG PEOPLE.

We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments, Solid Gold Rings and many other valuable premiums—the best that money can buy—for selling 18 pkgs. **National Ink Powder** or **National Bluine** at 10c. each. Each pkg. makes 50c. worth best ink or blueing. **We ask no money.** Send your name and address and we forward you 18 pkgs. with premium list and full instructions. When you sell them send money to us and select premium. **This is an honest offer.** We trust you. Write at once for outfit. Address all orders to

NATIONAL INK CO., 383 **La Salle St., Chicago.**

$15.95

ONLY ONE DOLLAR DOWN

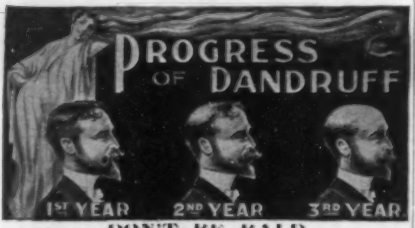
Cut this ad. out and send to us with $1.00 and we will send you this **HIGH GRADE 1899 MODEL $50.00 VICUNA BICYCLE** by express, C. O. D. subject to examination. Examine it at your express office and if you find it a genuine 1899 model HIGH GRADE $50.00 VICUNA, the grandest bargain you ever saw or heard of and you are convinced it is worth $10.00 to $15.00 more than any wheel advertised by other houses up to $25.00, pay your express agent the balance, **$14.95** and express charges.

THE VICUNA IS COVERED BY A BINDING GUARANTEE. Frame is 22 or 24 inch, made from best seamless tubing, finest two-piece Denton hanger, finest full ball bearings, Mason arch crown, enameled black, green or maroon, highly nickel finished, Delhi padded saddle, up or down turn handle bars, best Doyle pedals, HIGH GRADE GUARANTEED REGAL PNEUMATIC TIRES, fine leather bag, complete with all tools and repair outfit. **ORDER TODAY.** YOU CAN MAKE $50.00 EVERY MONTH SELLING THESE WHEELS AT $25.00. (Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

CATALOGUE FREE. **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.**

For $1.00 we furnish a Gas Lamp, the exact same lamp as is now being widely advertised as a premium with a bicycle as a REGULAR $3.50 ACETYLENE GAS LAMP, but we do not guarantee or recommend it.

$9.00 BUYS A HIGH GRADE VICTOR SEWING MACHINE Adapted to Light and Heavy Work. Reliable and Finely Finished; Guaranteed for 10 Years. Write for Catalogue, Attachments Free. 30 DAYS FREE TRIAL. WE PAY FREIGHT. Dept. E28, VICTOR MFG. CO., 293-297 Fifth Ave., Chicago.



DON'T BE BALD

DR. RHODES' DANDRUFF CURE

Cures Itching Scalps, Eczema, Dandruff, Barbers' Itch, Ringworm and all Diseases of the Hair and Scalp. **Your money back if it fails. MAKES HAIR GROW.**

Don't allow disgusting scales of dandruff on your hair and clothing. One application will stop that awful itching.

Mr. F. E. Baker, of the great glassware firm of John A. Webster & Co., Blackstone St., Boston, Mass., writes:

F. E. Baker.

"My hair has stopped falling out and new hair has grown in. I cannot say too much for your treatment, and would advise every one suffering from scalp disease and baldness to use Dr. Rhodes' remedies."

LAKELAND, FLA., Mar. 30, 1899.

My hair is growing nicely and the dandruff is gone, and I think cured, and that alone is worth many times the price of the remedies to me. I have been recommending your treatment to nearly every one I meet.

MRS. H. N. HEBB.

Dr. RHODES' DANDRUFF CURE, Price, 50c.

SENT BY MAIL ON RECEIPT OF PRICE.

FREE SAMPLE——CASH PRIZES

Interesting book on Scalp Diseases, Symptom Blank for **Free Advice**, and particulars of $500 Cash Prize Hair Growing Contest, on receipt of 4c. in stamps for postage.

Address Dr. A. A. RHODES CO.,

Hair and Scalp Specialists, - Merrimac Bldg., Lowell, Mass.

SUPERFLUOUS HAIR {Send 10c. for trial bottle of Dr. Rhodes' Hair Remover.

REFERENCE: MERCHANTS' NAT'L BANK, LOWELL.

German Silver Pocket Knife ABSOLUTELY FREE.

Send name on postal for photograph of it. If you like it say so, and it's yours. It's a **Combination Pocket Knife, German Silver Handle,** with **Henckel Steel Blades.** Sells for $2. **We give it free.**

The Consumer's Supply Mfg. Co., 156 Fifth Ave., New York.

BRASS TRIMMED ENAMELED IRON-BED FREE.

Our Great Combination Grocery Order No. 2.

This is the Bed.

Regular Price of Bed $4.50.

It is made after new design; the posts are heavy wrought iron; has angle iron side pieces and brass knobs; the scroll work is ornamented with cast clover leaves. It is 6 feet 3 inches long. Can be had in following widths: 3 ft., 6 in.; 4 ft.; 4 ft., 6 in. Send $10.00 and receive the Bed and

51 lbs. BEST Granulated SUGAR $1

with the following list of groceries; or $1 and the goods will be shipped C. O. D. subject to examination. This is our

COMBINATION GROCERY ORDER NO. 2:

Regular Retail Price.		
51 lb Granulated Sugar		$3.06
6 Cakes Toilet soap		.25
5 doz. Clothes Pins		.13
5 Bars Soap		.25
½ lb Pepper		.15
3 lb Coffee		.90
¾ lb Whole Nutmeg		.35
½ lb Ginger		.20
2 lb Tea		1.40
1 Box Stove Polish		.05
1 lb Corn Starch		.09
½ lb Cloves		.20
1 doz. Boxes Matches		.20
1 Bottle Root Beer Ext.		.25
1 " Phosphate		.25
1 " Ammonia		.10
1 " Bluing		.15
½ pt. Extract Lemon		.80
½ " " Vanilla		.80
1 lb Baking Powder		.40
5 lb Starch		.45
		$10.43

Our Price with Bed, $10.00

AT OUR EXPENSE. If the groceries are not as represented return them at our expense and we will refund your money and you may keep the Bed.

BINDER TWINE at COST Send for our special price list.

FREE Our illustrated catalog of everything to **Eat, Wear** and **Use** sent free. **SPECIAL.** Smyth's Patterns Wall Paper at less than wholesale price. Send for samples. We still give a **Graphophone** with our $14.75 Grocery Order.

JOHN M. SMYTH CO., 150-166 W. MADISON ST., Established 1867. CHICAGO.

COSTS YOU NOTHING TO TRY IT.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

Cures Female Weakness, Restores Health and Vigor, Makes Walking and Work Easy.

We receive thousands of letters similar to this:

Owensboro, Ky., Jan. 1, 1897.

"I wouldn't be without my brace, for it has cured me of all female troubles. Had suffered twelve years with laceration, ulceration, etc., with backache, headache, bearing down, constipation, painful menstruation, ovarian pains etc. Have had Brace a year, and haven't been in bed an hour from any illness since. Mrs. J. K. Hunter says the same and you can use our names if you wish. A young lady friend said to me not long ago: 'I don't care where I have a pain, the Brace relieves it.' Other friends have told me of their delight with the brace."

MRS. AUSTIN BERRY.

Money Refunded if Brace is not satisfactory. Send for full information with illustrated book, free.

The Natural Body Brace Co.,

HOWARD C. RASH, MGR.

BOX 50, SALINA, KANSAS.

Every Woman anticipating Motherhood should have this Brace.

FAT PEOPLE

Your Corpulency may be Reduced Easily, Promptly (2 to 5 pounds weekly) and **Safely.** I have the correct scientific treatment; no tight bandages to press your vital organs and cause serious complications, no purgatives that reduce strength with weight and cause stomach disorders also, no radical diet system to make you feel that life isn't worth living, no sickening treatment that leaves your skin wrinkled and flabby.

Corpulency Permanently Reduced

Mine is a home treatment, no patent medicine (which generally helps one person and kills another), but **practical, scientific treatment,** put up **especially for your use,** and personally directed by correspondence with you. Distance makes no difference. Write for full particulars, then judge of my methods for yourself.

Mention THE BLACK CAT when writing.

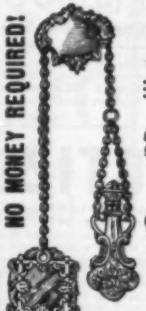
A. M. CROSS, M. D.

No. 3 WEST 20th STREET

NEW YORK, N. Y.

Gold Plated Chatelaine FREE

NO MONEY REQUIRED!



Your choice of this beautiful gold-plated Chatelaine, or a gold filled ring, for selling 20 of our

LADIES' GOLD PLATED BEAUTY PINS

At 5 cents each.

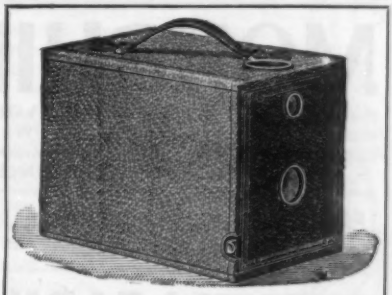
(Regular price 10c.)

NO MONEY REQUIRED IN ADVANCE.

Just send us your name and address, saying you will sell the pins or return them, and we will mail them at once, on receipt of your letter. Everybody needs several of these pins. You can sell them in a few minutes at 5 cents each. Send to-day—don't wait.

LADIES' PIN COMPANY,

855 Schiller Building. . . . CHICAGO.



Only $2, but worth $5

Makes Perfect Pictures 3 1-2 x 3 1-2 inches.

The Niagara Camera No. 2,

Covered with black grain Morocco.

Neat and compact; carries three double plate holders with capacity of six dry plates; achromatic lens; 1899 automatic safety shutter, arranged for time and instantaneous exposures.

$2 includes Camera, one double plate holder, and 32-page instruction book.

If not found to be a bargain, and perfectly satisfactory, return it within ten days and we will refund your money.

The Niagara Camera Co., Buffalo, N. Y.

Our FREE TRIAL TREATMENT often cures.

Our remedy, which contains the VITAL PRINCIPLE, lacking in all others, is a perfect antidote and not a substitute for

MORPHINE, OPIUM, LAUDANUM, COCAINE,

and Other Drug Habits. It positively, painlessly, and permanently cures at home without detention from business or any inconvenience whatever. Its action is immediate and leaves the system of the patient in a natural and healthy condition and without further desire for any drugs whatever. It is the only advertised specific remedy for drug habits.

PRESCRIBED BY PHYSICIANS. Six hundred prominent physicians are among our regular patrons. We have cured thousands of America's best citizens. Refractory cases especially invited. Closest investigation desired, especially by physicians.

We will send **FREE OF CHARGE** to any one addicted to morphine or other drug habits, a trial treatment sufficient for ten days, which will demonstrate its remarkable curative value.

Extracts from original letters.

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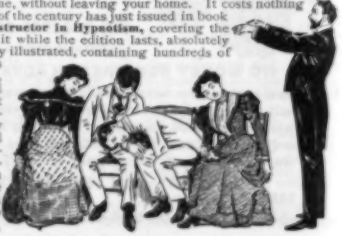

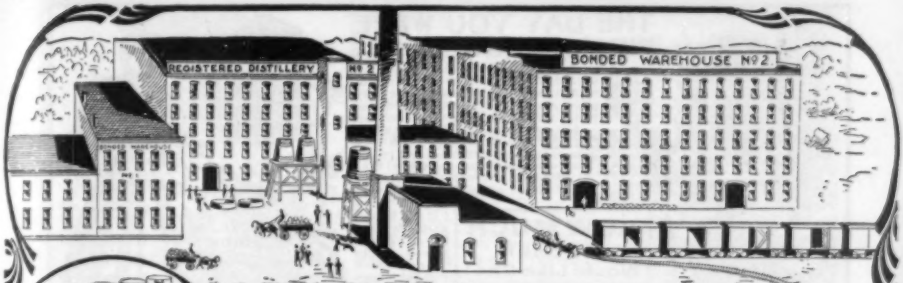

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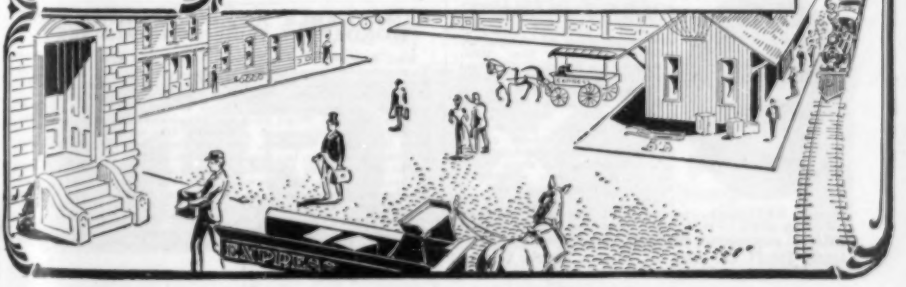

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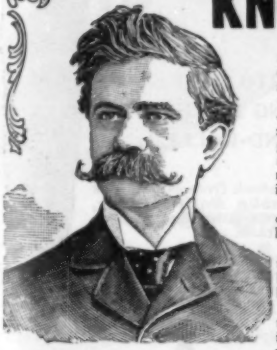

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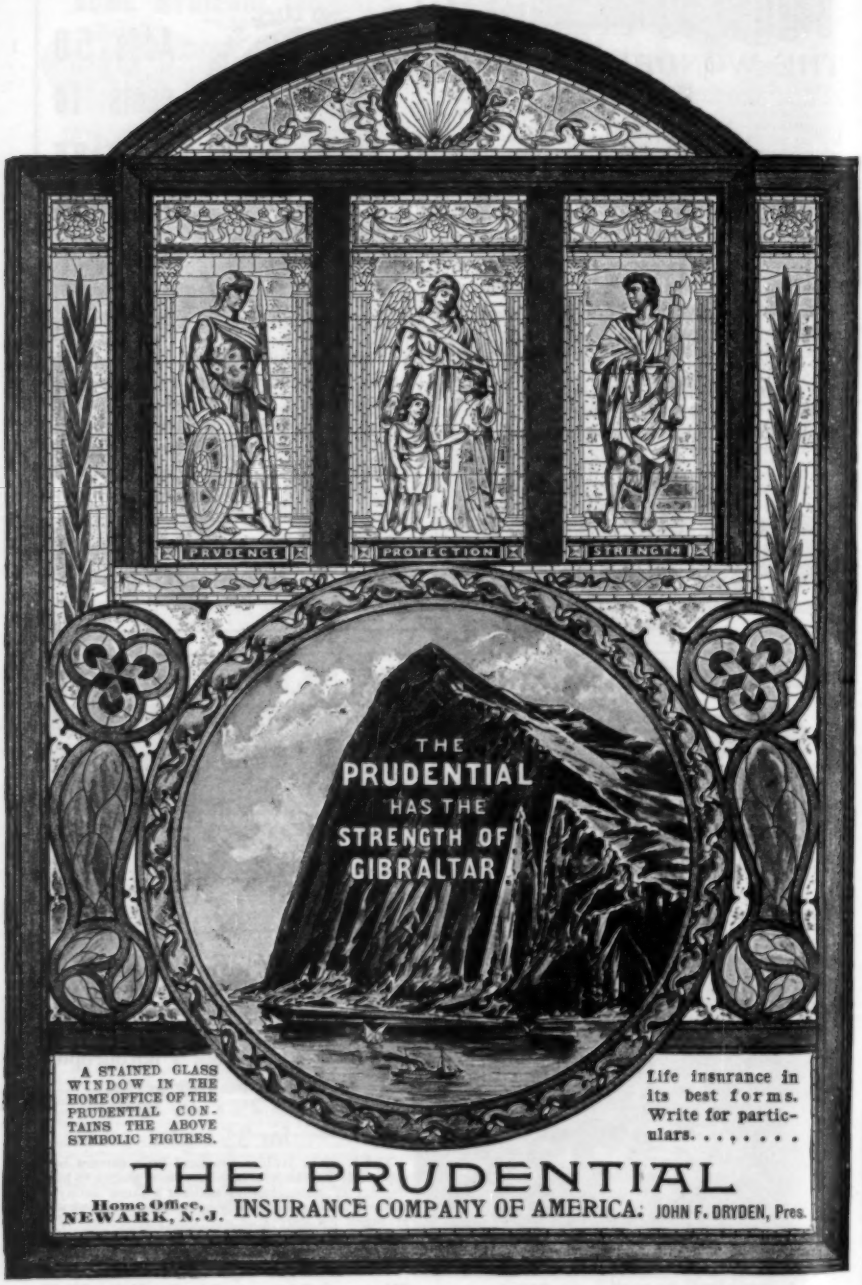

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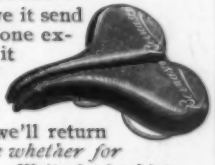

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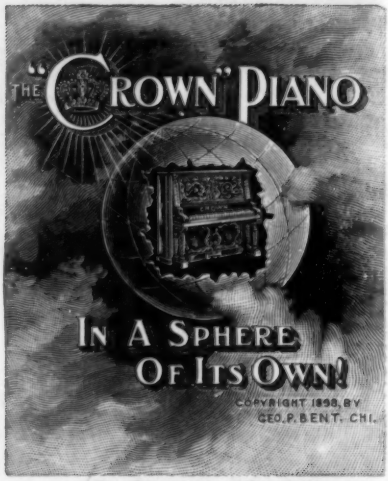

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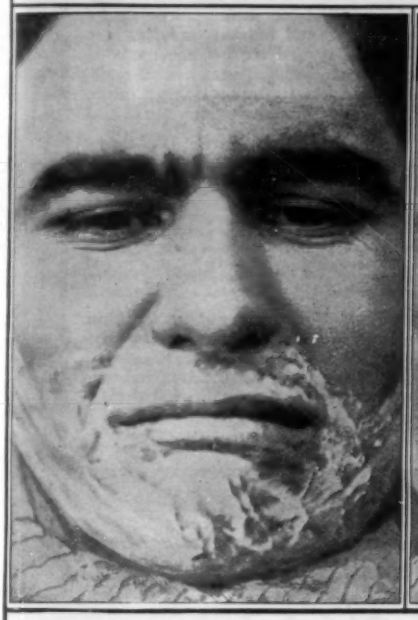
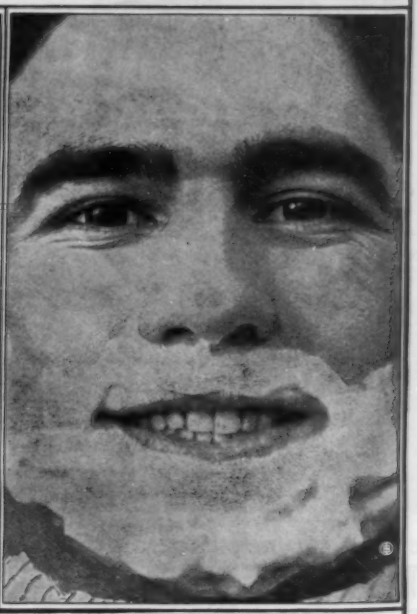
[which made Sarsaparilla famous]

WILLIAMS' SHAVING SOAP



This is how he looked when he tried a substitute for Williams' Soap, which his dealer urged upon him.



This is his expression when he had again procured the "Old Reliable" Williams' Shaving Soap.

DON'T be persuaded to buy something represented to be "just as good as WILLIAMS' SHAVING SOAP, and a little cheaper." The dealer may make a trifle more, but you'll be sad. Instead of the Big, Thick, CREAMY Lather, and the SOOTHED, REFRESHED, VELVETY FEELING of the face, that comes after shaving with WILLIAMS' SOAP, the chances are that you'll get one of the thin, frothy, quick-drying kinds that dull the razor and leave your face parched and drawn and smarting, if nothing worse.

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Williams' Shaving Soap (Barbers'), 6 round cakes, 1 lb., 40 cts. Exquisite also for Toilet. Trial tablet for 2-cent stamp. By mail if your dealer does not supply you.

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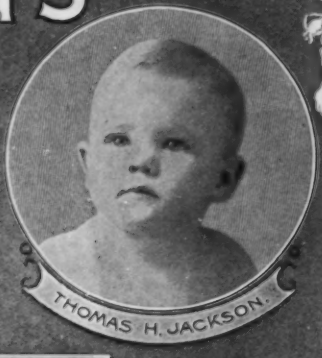

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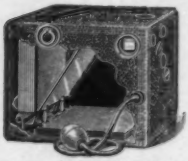

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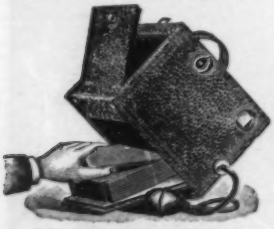

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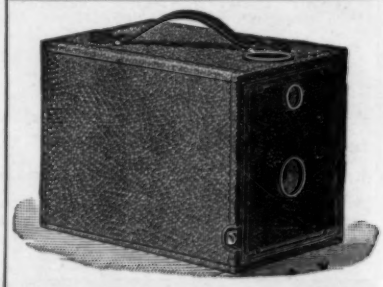

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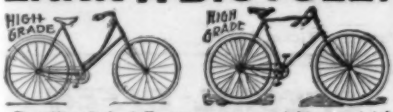

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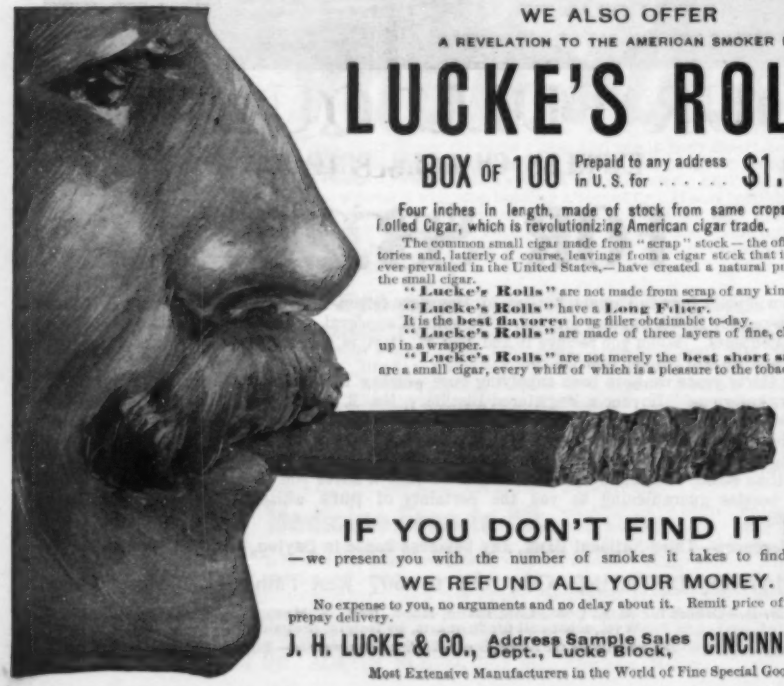

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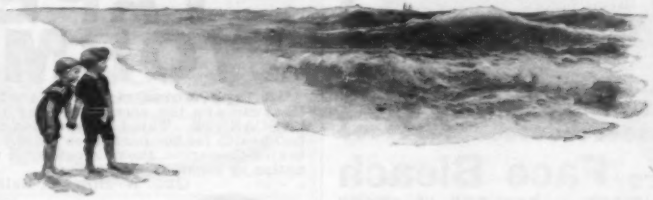

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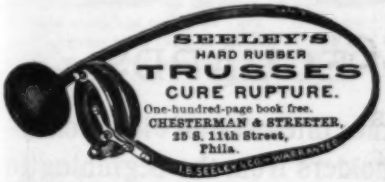

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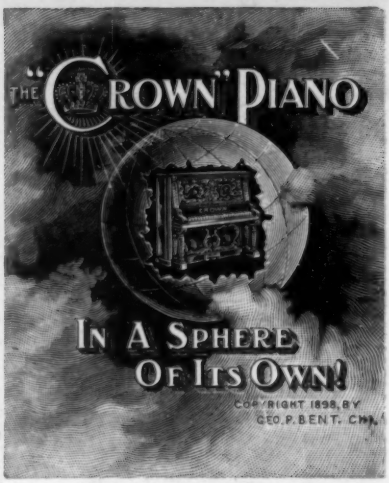

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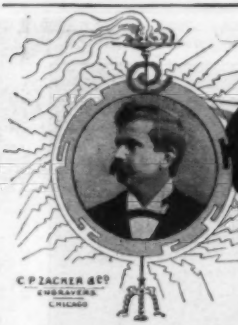

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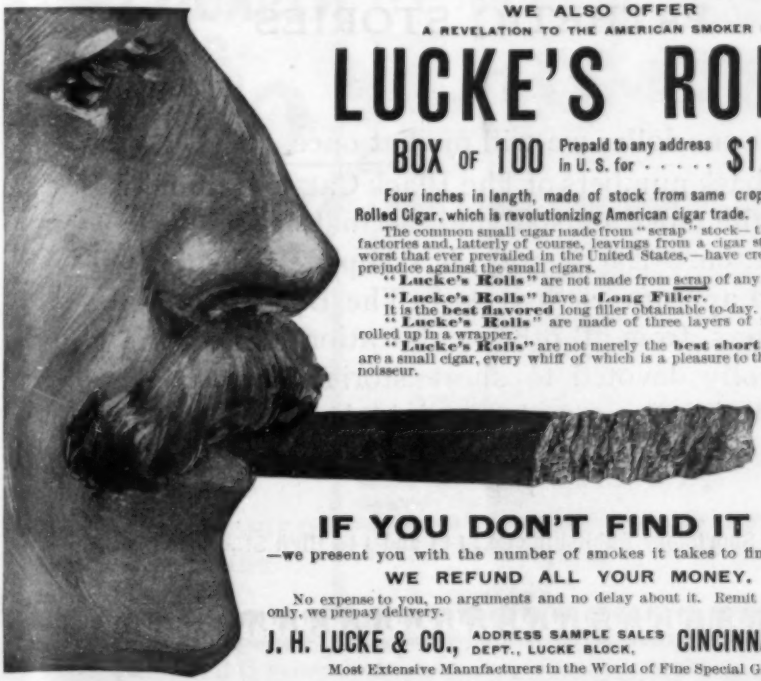

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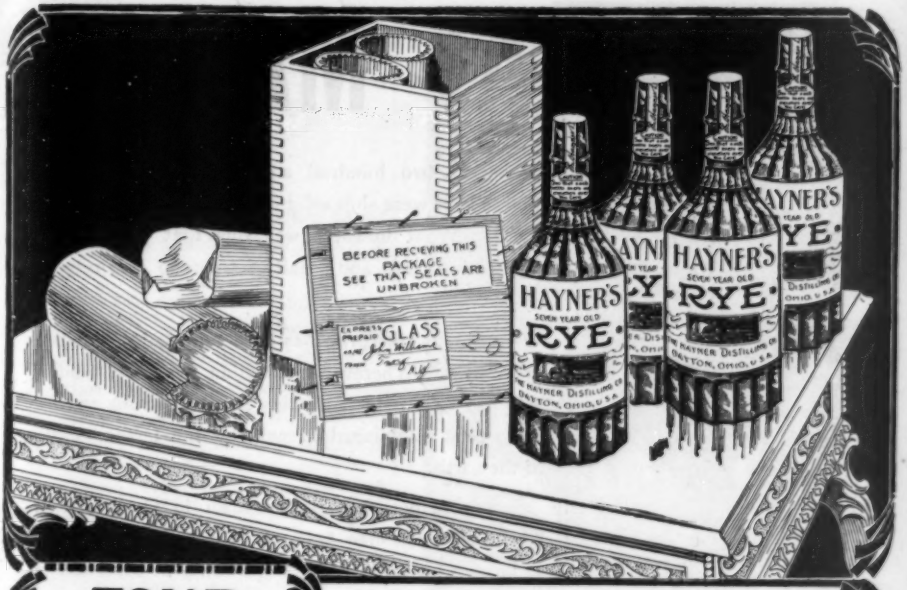

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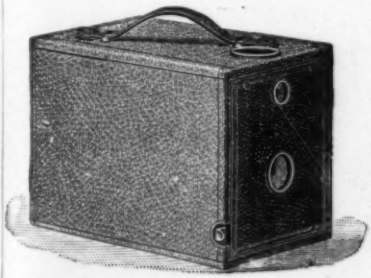

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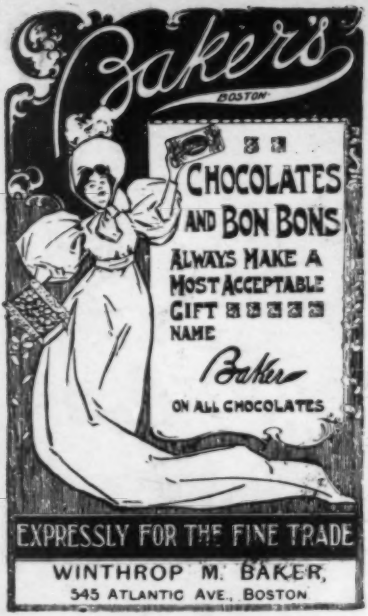

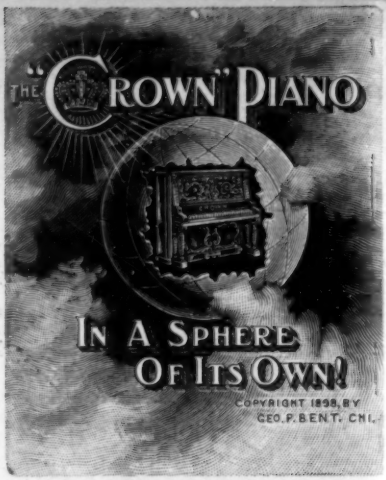

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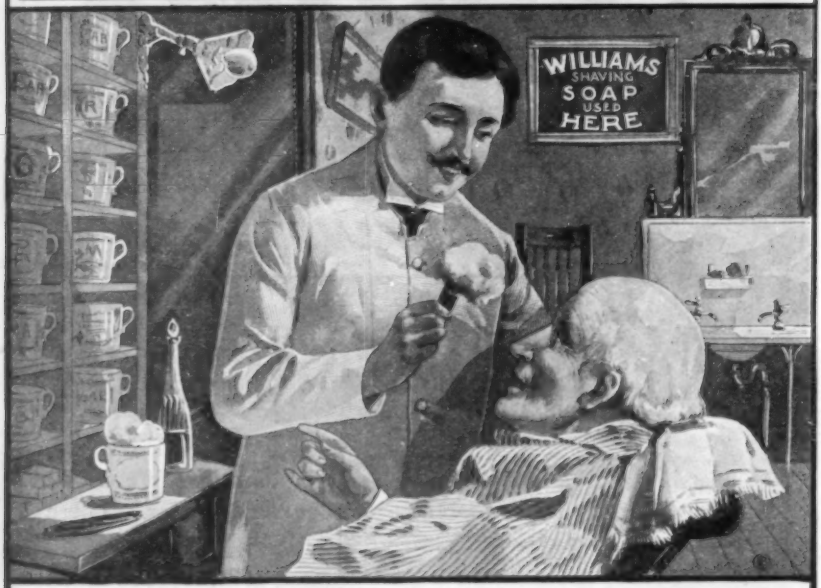

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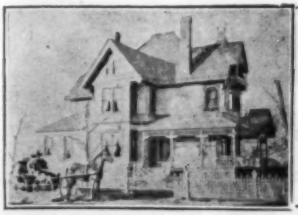

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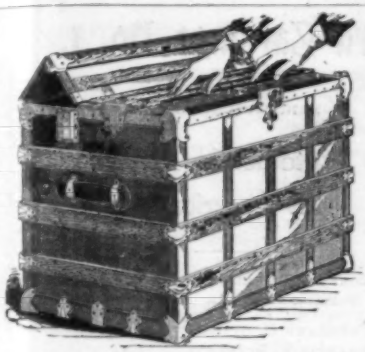

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Save 40% in Wear and Tear of Shoes

Actual size and shape of Circlettes.

Three Good Luck, silver-steel, Perfection Circlettes in each heel of your shoes make those heels wear true and square till the shoes are worn out. We send enough of the Good Luck Circlettes for a pair of shoes for 6 cents in stamps, or 2 dozen for 10 cents. Easily driven by a hammer blow.

Equally good for Men, Boys, Misses, and Children.

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of your pencil. Carry it in the Improved Washburne Patent Pencil Holder. Fastens to pocket or lapel of vest. Grips firmly, but doesn't tear the fabric. Eyeglass Holder, with swivel hook, equally handy. By mail, 10c. each.

Catalogue of these and other novelties made with the Washburne Fasteners free for the asking.

AMERICAN RING CO., Box 76, Waterbury, Conn.

For Children While Cutting Their Teeth.

An Old and Well-Tried Remedy

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been used for over FIFTY YEARS by MILLIONS of MOTHERS for their CHILDREN WHILE TEETHING, with PERFECT SUCCESS. IT SOOTHES the CHILD, SOFTENS the GUMS, ALLAYS all PAIN; CURES WIND COLIC, and is the best remedy for DIARRHŒA. Sold by Druggists in every part of the World. Be sure and ask for **Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup**, and take no other kind.

Twenty-Five Cents a Bottle.

FEEL YOUR PULSE

Place your finger on your pulse and see if your heart beats regularly and steadily. **If there is a single skipping or irregularity of the beats, your heart is weak or diseased,** and there is no telling how soon it will stop beating altogether. Heart troubles, dangerous as they are, can be instantly recognized by all. No doctor can tell better than you if your heart is out of order. But remember that irregular or skipping beats are **only one symptom,** and in many cases are not found. Any of the following are just as positive and sure:—

Symptoms of Heart Trouble.

Fluttering, Palpitation, Shortness of Breath, Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in the Left Side, Arm or Under the Shoulder Blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep, Dreaming, Nightmare, Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy, Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs), **Neuralgia Around the Heart.** Persons having even **one** of these symptoms should not delay treatment a single day.

Medicine Free to All. If you have been treating yourself for stomach, lung, kidney or nervous disease, and have failed to find a cure, the chances are 9 in 10 that **your trouble is in your heart.** Hundreds of such cases are found every year. I want you to send me your name and address at once, so I can send to you for trial a box of my celebrated Heart Tablets **absolutely free of charge,** by mail, prepaid. Don't fail to write me if you have a single one of the above symptoms. I can cure you beyond any question, and will send the free tablets to prove it to you personally. Delays are dangerous. Inclose stamp for postage.

Address **DR. AUSTIN ALBRO,** Box 917, Augusta, Maine.

PURE WHISKEY

Direct from Distiller
To - - - Consumer

FOUR FULL QUARTS
for $3.20

EXPRESS PREPAID By *US*

SAVES MIDDLEMENS PROFITS
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Since *1866*

Hayner's pure double copper distilled Rye Whiskey has been sold to Consumers direct from our own Distillery, known as "Hayner's Registered Distillery No. 2, Tenth District, Ohio." No other Distillers sell to consumers direct. Those who offer to sell you whiskey in this way are speculators who buy to sell again, on which plan they are compelled to add a profit, which you can save by buying from us direct.

We will send four full quarts of Hayner's Seven-Year-Old Double Copper Distilled Rye Whiskey for $3.20, express prepaid. We ship on approval in plain, sealed boxes, with no marks to indicate contents. When you receive and test it, if not satisfactory return it at our expense and we will return your $3.20.

Such whiskey as we offer you for $3.20 cannot be purchased elsewhere for less than $5.00, and the low price at which we offer it saves you the addition of middlemen's profits, besides you are guaranteed the certainty of **pure** whiskey, absolutely free from adulteration.

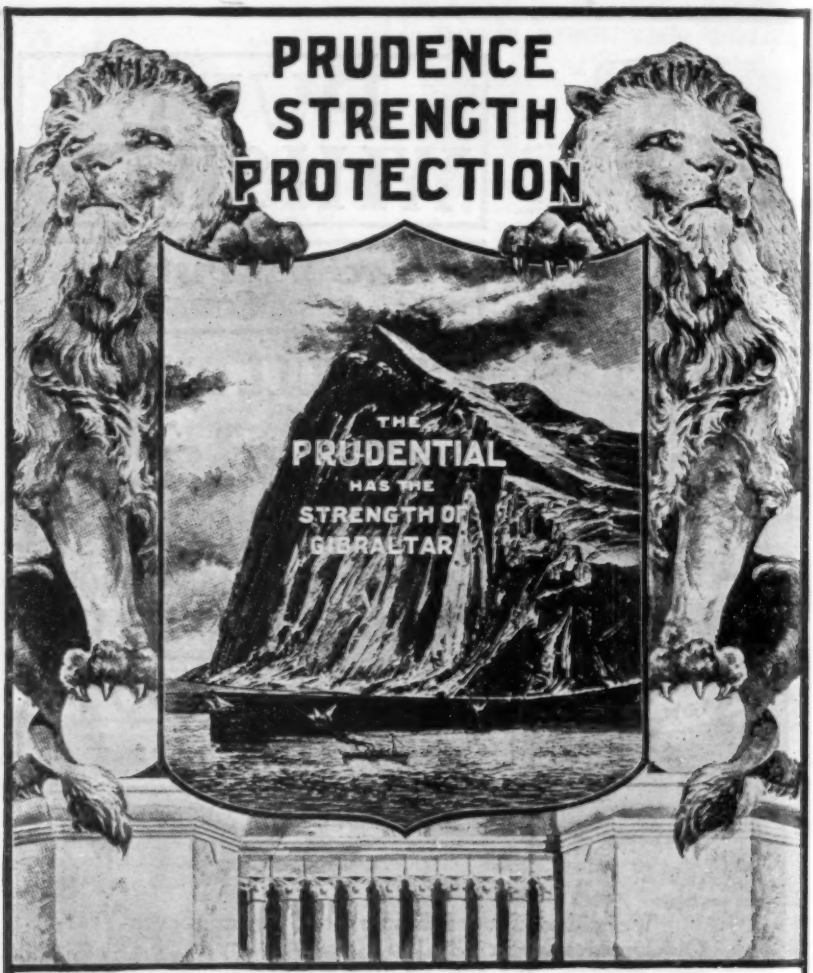
REFERENCES.—Third National Bank, any business house in Dayton or Commercial Agencies.

THE HAYNER DISTILLING CO.,

601-607 West Fifth Street, DAYTON, OHIO.

N.B.—Orders from Ariz., Col., Cal., Idaho, Mont., Nev., N.Mex., Ore., Utah, Wash., Wyo., must call for 20 qts. by freight, prepaid.

We guarantee the above firm to do as it agrees to.—EDITOR.



OVER THE MAIN ENTRANCE OF THE HOME OFFICE OF THE PRUDENTIAL ARE TWO MASSIVE STONE LIONS

Prudence dictates securing the *Protection* of the family through *Life Insurance* in a company having the *Strength* as well as the determination to fulfil all its contracts to the letter.

Profit-sharing Life Insurance Policies, $15 to $100,000

The Prudential Insurance Co.

Write for information
Every approved plan

OF AMERICA

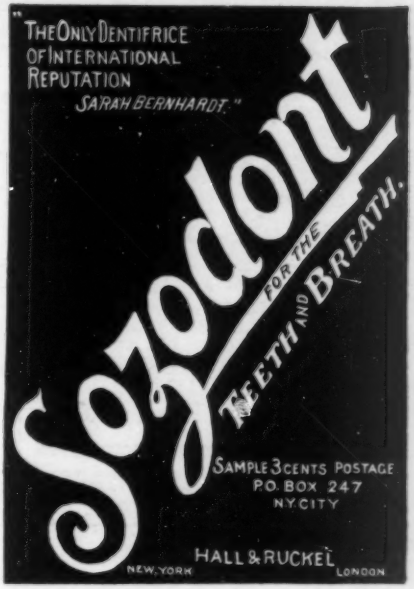
JOHN F. DRYDEN, President
Home Office: NEWARK, N. J.

ALONG THE COLUMBIA RIVER.

No other river in the world is like the Columbia. Its fish are shipped to every part of the world. Ships from the Oriental countries and islands of the Pacific pass to and fro upon it, and the scenery along its banks is charming.

This country is reached by the New York Central and its connections; in fact, any part of the Pacific Coast can be easily and quickly reached by the New York Central Lines.

For a copy of the "Luxury of Modern Railway Travel" send one 2-cent stamp to George H. Daniels, General Passenger Agent, Grand Central Station, New York.



Cover Your Own Umbrella.

Take the measure (in inches) of your old umbrella cover; count the number of outside ribs; state if the centre rod is steel or wood. If you cannot get the Jones Umbrella "Roof" of your dealer **send $1.00 to us,** and we will mail, postpaid, a **Union Twilled Silk,** 25 or 26 inch "Adjustable Roof"; (27 or 28 inch, $1.25; 29 or 30 inch, $1.50). Umbrella "Roofs" at all prices from **50 cents to $8.00** each, according to quality. If not entirely satisfactory your money promptly refunded, including stamps you have used for postage. Booklet, "Umbrella Economy," with simple instructions necessary, mailed with your order.

THE JONES-MULLEN CO., Dept. "H," 396 Broadway, New York.

MANUFACTURERS OF THE HIGHEST GRADES OF UMBRELLAS TO THE LARGEST STORES IN THE WORLD.

AGENTS WANTED.

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COCOA

AN UNSURPASSED BREAKFAST DRINK.

VANILLA CHOCOLATE.

UNEQUALLED FOR EATING, DRINKING & COOKING.

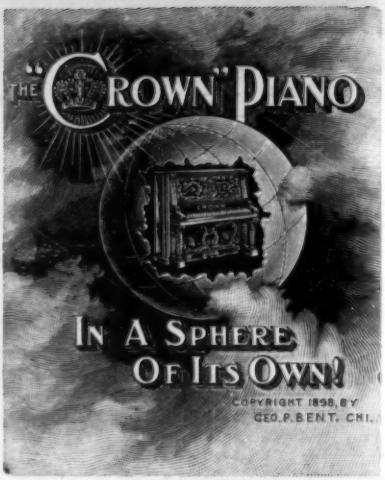
PREMIUM CHOCOLATE

FOR DRINKING, COOKING, CREAMS &c

Huyler's COCOA & CHOCOLATES,

FOR PURITY OF MATERIAL
FOR DELICIOUSNESS OF FLAVOR UNSURPASSED.

GROCERS EVERYWHERE.



"The One of many Tones."
Other Pianos are "Single-toned" Instruments.
No other like it. No other equal to it.

"Crown" Piano is the highest type of the modern pianoforte. It stands squarely on its merits and courts the most critical examination and closest comparison. It is sure to please and satisfy you. Warranted 10 years, and warrant is "**Burnt in the back**" of each instrument. Write for catalogue with music free. Bent makes "**Crown**" Church and Parlor Organs too. **Catalogue for the asking.**

GEO. P. BENT, Manufacturer,
Bent Block. Chicago, Illinois, U. S. A.

FROM A 5-POUND SKELETON TO THIS

ESKAY'S Albumenized FOOD

MADE THE CHANGE.

Our baby has been taking Eskay's Food for the last thirteen months and it has made a new child of him. When he was two months old I had to put him on a prominent artificial food, which so constipated him and reduced his weight that we had to abandon it.

He was almost a skeleton, weighing only five pounds, but Eskay's Food agreed with him so well from the start that he rapidly increased in weight, until he is now the perfect picture of health. MRS. G. J. GESEMYER.
3144 Westmont St., Philadelphia.

Children, sick or well, thrive upon Eskay's Food, because it contains all the elements necessary to perfect nutrition.

Send a postal for free sample.

Smith, Kline & French Co., Philadelphia, Pa.

OVER
108,000
NOW IN USE.

FISCHER PIANOS. ESTD 1840.

Offices and Factories:
417-433 West 28th St.
New York.

One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars

will be given for the best FIFTEEN STORIES about the remarkable

Sorosis Shoes

now so universally worn by women.

First Prize,

Five Hundred Dollars;

Second Prize,

Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars, etc.

This offer, made by the Manufacturers of SOROSIS, is to

Women Only.

Send for Full Particulars to

A. E. Little & Company, 52 Blake St., Lynn, Mass.

NOTE. There is nothing more attractive and helpful to romance than a handsome foot. SOROSIS as applied to shoes is now a household word, and means all that is best. The knowing one is aware that SOROSIS makes her feet look well and feel well.

THE STAMP

LOUIS HERMSDORF

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stands for "FAST BLACK." When buying HOSIERY see that THIS SIGNATURE is attached to every pair.

"AMERICA'S GREATEST HEATER"

The Winchester

For Steam Heating

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A Postal will bring you a Catalogue.

Though "New England" in name, it is *national* in reputation—yes, *international*, for it has been the

New England CONSERVATORY OF MUSIC

that has proved the fallacy of *the necessity* for foreign study to make a finished musician or elocutionist.

GEORGE W. CHADWICK, Musical Director.

All particulars and Catalogue will be sent by FRANK W. HALE, General Manager, Boston, Mass.

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Color Printing a Specialty. Samples and Estimates cheerfully furnished.

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Illustrators and Engravers.

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A Mellin's Food Girl

DOROTHY OLIVER, ~ ~ FLUSHING, N.Y.

Handsome Dorothy Oliver was raised exclusively on Mellin's Food and her brother and sister also: all three children taking Mellin's Food from their first feeding.

MELLIN'S FOOD prepared with milk is a complete food for an infant; by simply varying the proportions it can be adapted to children of all ages. No cooking required. Write us for a sample or for any information you may wish in regard to Mellin's Food.

MELLIN'S FOOD COMPANY, BOSTON, MASS.

Is Your Tongue Coated?

Just take a look in the glass and see. If so, then you know something is wrong with your stomach and liver.

You probably have a bad taste in your mouth, your appetite is poor, and your digestion weak. You are frequently dizzy, always feel dull and drowsy. You have cold hands and feet. You get but little benefit from your food. Often you have sick headache, and there is almost always a sensation as if some great weight were pressing on top of the head.

What is the cause of all this trouble?

Constipated bowels.

How can you expect to enjoy good health if you pay no attention to the laws of Nature? They demand that the impure and refuse material must be removed from the body at least once each day. Yet perhaps you go three or four days without having a movement of the bowels. Then impure and poisonous substances are absorbed into the blood and you suffer the consequences.

Constipated bowels produce congestion in all the organs in the lower part of the body. In woman this means that she suffers terribly from weakness, pain, bearing down sensation, soreness, tenderness, and innumerable aches and pains through the lower part of the bowels.

You are slowly poisoning yourself

Ayer's Pills are easy to take and easy to operate.

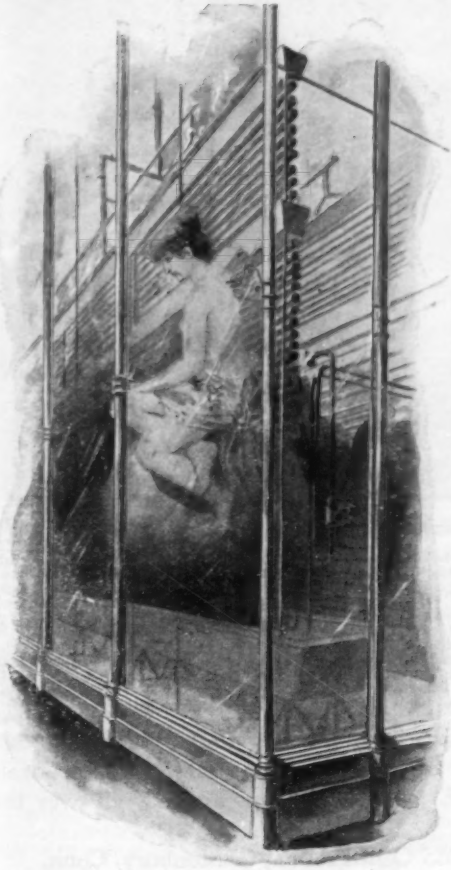
You should take just enough of them each night to produce one good free movement of the bowels the day following. Keep this thought in mind: You cannot enjoy good health unless you have this daily action of the bowels.

Ayer's Pills cure constipation, biliousness, sick headache, nausea, dyspepsia. They have been on the market for over half a century. There is hardly a home in the land where you cannot find the old familiar box. There is not a single mineral in them. They are a purely vegetable pill, made from the purest and choicest drugs. You can rely upon them as certain and safe, yet mild and gentle. They are the best laxative pill that can be made.

25 cents. All druggists.

Schlitz

In Filtered Air.



The picture shows a room in which Schlitz Beer is cooled—a plate glass room to which air can only come through filters.

The beer is cooled by dripping over frigid pipes in air as pure as human means can make it.

And that's but one extreme.

Before the beer comes to this room it is brewed in air tight cauldrons. After it leaves here it is filtered, then sterilized. Absolute cleanliness all through.

Not another article of your food or drink is the subject of such caution. But beer is saccharine. Any impurity would multiply in it and make the beer unhealthful.

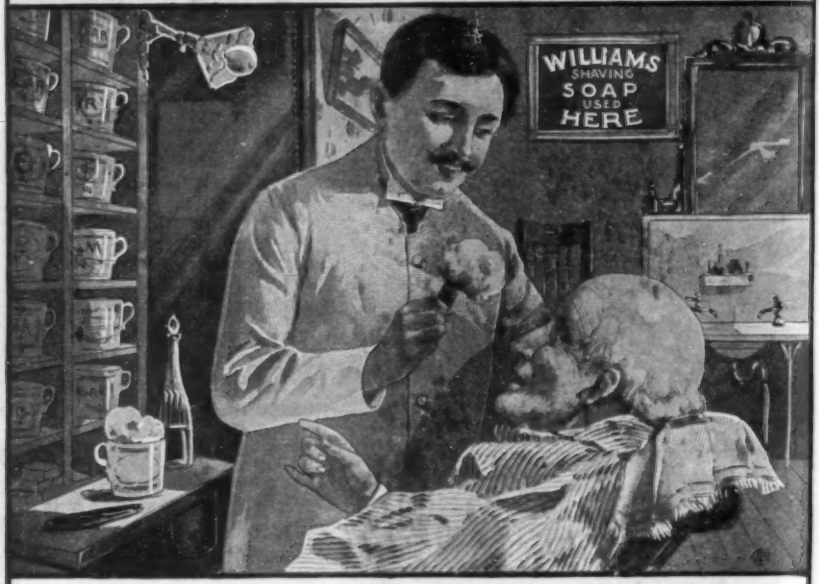
It is by such extremes as we show you that we maintain the reputation of Schlitz Beer for absolute purity.

"Green" beer—half-aged beer—is the beer that causes biliousness.

Your physician will tell you that Schlitz, the beer that made Milwaukee famous, will not make you bilious.

DICTIONARY FREE. We will send you a 200-page up to date Webster Pocket Dictionary upon receipt of two-cent stamp, to pay postage. Address, SCHLITZ, Milwaukee, Wis.

WILLIAMS' SHAVING SOAP



THE J. B. WILLIAMS CO., Glastonbury Conn.

Dear Sirs:—

I enclose a picture taken by me in one of the leading barber shops in this city yesterday. While awaiting "my turn," the old gentleman in the chair entered and asked if he could be shaved. Being told that he could, he asked what soap they used, and said if they didn't use **WILLIAMS'** Soap he would go elsewhere. He stated that he was ninety-three years old, and had used nothing but **WILLIAMS'** Soap for more than half of his life. That many years ago his face had been badly poisoned in a shop, where one of the so-called cheap soaps was used, and he had suffered agonies. He at once quit that shop and went to one where **WILLIAMS'** Soap was always used. Since then he had fought shy of all barbers who did not use "**WILLIAMS' SOAP.**"

Very Respectfully, J. W. URQUHART,
Detroit, Mich.

MORAL: Protect yourself by insisting that your barber uses WILLIAMS' SHAVING SOAP. Accept no substitute from dealers if you shave yourself. Williams' Soaps are sold all over the world.

THE J. B. WILLIAMS COMPANY, Glastonbury, Conn.

Depots: London, Paris, Dresden, Sydney.

Pin Money for Shoe Buyers

THE TRI=ON=FA SHOE fits as well, walks as well, wears as well, and looks as well as any woman's shoe costing from 50% to 100% more.

The Tri-On-Fa Shoes Cost $2.50 a Pair.

Why pay more? Why not save from $1.00 to $2.50 for pin money? The woman who buys TRI=ON=FA pays just what is necessary—and no more than is necessary in this age of economical, scientific shoe making—for Com=fortable, Reliable, Stylish footwear.

In case your dealer does not yet keep "TRI=ON=FAS" we will send you a pair, express paid, on receipt of $2.75 and refund your money if not satisfactory.

Send us your address so that we may send you our Shoe Book M, showing more than 20 styles.

THE HURLEY SHOE CO., Lynn, Mass.

Cover Your Own Umbrella.

Take the measure (in inches) of your old umbrella cover; count the number of outside ribs; state if the centre rod is steel or wood. If you cannot get the Jones Umbrella "Roof" of your dealer **send $1.00 to us,** and we will mail, postpaid, a **Union Twilled Silk,** 25 or 26 inch "Adjustable Roof"; (27 or 28 inch, $1.25; 29 or 30 inch, $1.50). Umbrella "Roofs" at all prices from **50 cents to $8.00** each, according to quality. If not entirely satisfactory your money promptly refunded, including stamps you have used for postage. Booklet, "Umbrella Economy," with simple instructions necessary, mailed with your order.

THE JONES-MULLEN CO.,

Dept. "H," 396 Broadway, New York.

Manufacturers of the Highest Grades of Umbrellas to the Largest Stores in the World.

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RARITANIA

"FULL FASHIONED" HOSIERY

is a trade expression and means that it is knit so as to fit the foot and leg like a glove, leaving no seams to annoy, nor creases to blister.

RARITANIA HOSIERY

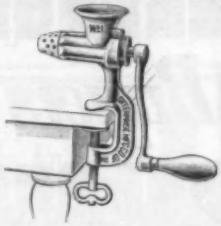
is "Full Fashioned," fine in texture, fast dyed and strong, a delight to all who wear it, and costs no more than other hosiery of similar quality. All high-class dealers have it. Not sold at mill.

Each package has a label bearing the word "RARITANIA," of which the heading of this advertisement is a facsimile. The name is also stamped on each pair of hose.

NORFOLK & NEW BRUNSWICK HOSIERY CO.

NEW BRUNSWICK, N. J.

FULL FASHIONED HOSIERY



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CHOPS EVERYTHING EDIBLE

No. 1, $1.25 Easily Cleaned No Small Parts to Lose or Mislay

Sent prepaid to any address on receipt of $1.50

No Kitchen Complete Without One

Send 4c. in stamps for "Enterprising Housekeeper," 200 recipes

Illustrated Catalogue, describing thirty other sizes and styles for Hand and Power, Mailed Free.

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Durkee's Salad Dressing and Meat Sauce

Imparts to salads of Vegetables, Fish, Fowl and Cold Meats an appetizing, cooling, refreshing wholesomeness that renders it

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Free. Send for free booklet on "Salads: How to Make and Dress Them," giving many valuable and novel recipes for Salads, Sandwiches, Sauces, Luncheon Dishes, etc. Sample, 10c.

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Embroidery Lessons with Colored Studies for 1900

Order at once and get an early copy of our Annual Publication, in a beautiful lithographed cover; containing enough new ideas about stitches, needles, centrepieces, doilies, tea cloths, tray cloths, pincushions, sofa pillows, etc., to keep a person interested in embroidery for the entire year to come.

16 new, full-page Colored Plates not to be found in any other book

Some most valuable chapters appear under the following headings: "How to Embroider Flower Stems," "Table Sets in Shell Designs," "Pincushions for Embroidery," "Books with Embroidered Covers," "Sofa Pillows for Embroidery."

Ask for our new "1900 Book." Mailed for **10 cents** *in stamps. Address*

THE BRAINERD & ARMSTRONG CO.
42 Union Street, New London, Conn.

CHILDREN TEETHING

For Children While Cutting Their Teeth.

An Old and Well-Tried Remedy

FOR OVER FIFTY YEARS.

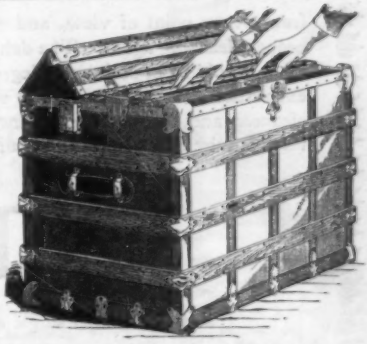
MRS. WINSLOW'S SOOTHING SYRUP has been used for over FIFTY YEARS by MILLIONS of MOTHERS for their CHILDREN WHILE TEETHING, with PERFECT SUCCESS. IT SOOTHES the CHILD, SOFTENS the GUMS, ALLAYS all PAIN; CURES WIND COLIC, and is the best remedy for DIARRHŒA. Sold by Druggists in every part of the World. Be sure and ask for **Mrs. Winslow's Soothing Syrup**, and take no other kind.

Twenty-Five Cents a Bottle.

BOYS AND GIRLS:

Upon receipt of a two-cent stamp we will send you full information about our Magic Colors and the two prizes we offer for the most artistic coloring of our picture "HAPPY CHILDHOOD."

MASCOTTE MAGIC ART CO.,
No. 1226 ARCH STREET, PHILADELPHIA.



The New Departure Trunk

(Bean's Patent.)

The Strongest and Most Convenient trunk on the market. "The Cover Folds," closing inside the trunk, therefore it cannot be broken off. The mechanical construction makes strapping unnecessary.

For sale only by the manufacturers. All mail orders receive prompt attention. Send for catalogue No. 30.

THE NEW DEPARTURE TRUNK CO.,
78 Summer St., Boston.

BABY'S BATH IS IMPORTANT

from every point of view, and equally important is the selection of the proper cleansing agent. The delicate skin requires **absolute purity**, and there should be in addition a degree of exhilarating power to overcome the exhaustion. Irritation must be soothed and healed, the pores and glands cleansed and stimulated, and incipient disease "nipped in the bud." All these requirements are fulfilled completely by

CUTELIX

and by no other single article or combination of articles.

What's good for the baby is good for you, and you will also find CUTELIX more than acceptable as a dentifrice and shampoo, as well as a general household remedy for burns, bruises, scalds, etc., etc., etc.

If you find difficulty in securing CUTELIX at your druggist's, send us 30 cents and a bottle will be sent by express, or four bottles for one dollar.

CUTELIX CO., 253 Broadway, New York.

Aldine Wood Mantels

give to a home the finishing touch of grace and beauty—make a pleasing addition to its furnishings. Aldine Mantels are works of art. The designs are new and artistic, and the finish is hand-rubbed and piano-polished. They are as good as mantels can be made. They cost from $10 up. A handsome catalogue of 35 designs is yours for the asking.

The Aldine Fireplace

gives practical value to the Aldine Wood Mantels. It gives more than double the heat of the ordinary open grate, and saves three-fifths of the coal. It is not an expense. It pays for itself in the first season's use, and saves money for you ever after. It is described in a dainty little book that we'd be pleased to send you. Address

Aldine Manufacturing Company,

120 Court Street, Grand Rapids, Mich.

"THE VIOLA" Ladies' Outing and Early Fall Hat (just out)

made of finest quality French fur felt, trimmed with a large rosette and band of Black, double-faced Satin Ribbon and long Eagle Quill, edge of hat bound with black satin ribbon and lined with fine quality white satin.

Colors of Hat are Pearl, Black, Brown, Navy, Cardinal and Ecru.

A regular **$5.00** Hat which we offer, express prepaid, to any address on receipt of **$3.00**, in either P. O. Money Order, Express Order or Registered Letter. If this Hat is not satisfactory, return it to us and we will refund the money.

RODBERG & CO.,

Importers and Manufacturers of Ladies' Hats,

127 TREMONT ST., BOSTON, MASS.

SEND 25 CENTS

For a three months' trial subscription to "AMERICAN HOMES," a most interesting and instructive magazine devoted to the improvement of the home. It is of great practical value to everyone who thinks of building, or desires attractive, artistic rooms at little expense. Send your order today and learn how to get a set of plans for a nice summer cottage without cost.

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MAGIC LANTERNS WANTED AND FOR SALE OR EXCHANGE
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Aluminum Card Case Free with your name engraved on cover, with all orders for our unexcelled business or visiting cards. 3 3-4x2, 40 cts.; 4 1-4x2 1-2, 50 cts. per 100. We pay postage. Give us a trial order. Satisfaction guaranteed or money refunded. The Standard Distributing Agency, P.O. Box 355, Cincinnati, Ohio.

$4,200 Cash!

For Story Writers

2	Prizes	$500	each	—$1,000
2	"	$300	"	— $600
2	"	$200	"	— $400
3	"	$150	"	— $450
6	"	$125	"	— $750
10	"	$100	"	—$1,000

We will pay $4,200 IN CASH PRIZES as above for original short stories for publication in

The Black Cat

THE BLACK CAT is the only periodical of its kind. To quote *The New York Tribune*, "It inaugurated a new era in story-telling," and in the words of *The San Francisco Examiner*, "It is the story-telling hit of the century." It appeals to people who prefer **Quality** to Quantity, who prefer **Originality** to Commonplace. It publishes no Continued stories, no Translations, no Borrowings, no Stealings. It pays the highest price in the world for stories that **are** stories, and it pays, not according to length but according to strength. It pays, furthermore, not according to the name or reputation of a writer but according to the cleverness and excellence of a story. It is issued monthly, and sold by newsdealers at 5 cents a copy; 50 cents a year, postage paid.

It wants stories that are wholly original and new in plot, incident, situation, and handling—stories so fascinating in every detail and so interesting from beginning to end as to appeal to intelligent people everywhere. It wants clean, clever, wholesome stories, free from commonplace, padding, and foreign phrases—natural stories, logically thought out, tersely told in good English. It wants spirited stories that tell, and tell cleverly in a few pages what nine out of ten stories tell poorly in a dozen instalments. In short, it wants Stories that **are** Stories.

It is bought, read, and praised in hundreds of thousands of the best homes, because it presents in unique, original form, the concentrated extract of the story-teller's art, and because the merit of a story and not the reputation of a writer gains admittance to its columns.

While writers may choose their own themes, we specially desire stories, in the handling of which the morbid, unnatural and unpleasant are avoided rather than emphasized. No dialect stories, translations, or poems will be considered, nor will any story be considered that is not submitted strictly in accordance with the following

CONDITIONS:

1. Each manuscript must bear at the top of the first page the writer's real name and address, in full, as also the number of words it contains, which may range from 1,800 to 6,000, but must in no case exceed the latter number.

2. Each manuscript must be plainly written (either on typewriter or with pen) on one side of paper only, on sheets not larger than 8 x 11 inches, must be sent unrolled, *postage or express charges fully prepaid*, and accompanied by addressed and stamped envelope for return. Letters advising the submittal of stories must be *enclosed with manuscripts*, and not sent under separate cover. Manuscripts will be received and returned only at the writer's risk.

3. Every story must be strictly original and must, neither wholly nor in part, have appeared in print in any language. Every story will be judged on its own merits; the name or reputation of a writer will carry absolutely no weight whatsoever. And furthermore, every story will be judged, not in accordance with its length, but with its worth as a story.

4. With every manuscript intended for this $4,200 Prize Competition, there must be enclosed, in one and the same envelope, one yearly subscription to THE BLACK CAT, together with 50 cents to pay therefor. In case of subscriptions to foreign countries 24 cents must be added to cover postage.

5. All envelopes containing manuscripts with subscriptions as above must be plainly marked "For Competition" and addressed, "The Shortstory Publishing Company, 144 High Street, Boston, Mass." Their receipt will be promptly acknowledged. Any competitor may send as many stories as he pleases, but in each case all the above conditions must be complied with.

6. The competition will close March 31, 1900, and within 60 days from that date the awards will be announced in THE BLACK CAT, and paid in cash. Should two stories of equal merit be considered worthy of a prize, the prize will be either doubled or divided. In the case of stories unsuccessful in the competition but deemed desirable, the publishers will either award special prizes, of not less than $100 each, or will offer to purchase the same. All unsuccessful manuscripts, submitted as above, will be returned, together with the printed announcement of the results of the competition. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, neither the publishers nor the editor can enter into correspondence relative thereto.

IMPORTANT. *As no manuscripts in the case of which all the above conditions have not been complied with will be considered, it is urged that competitors make sure that their manuscripts are prepared strictly in accordance with the foregoing, are securely sealed in strong envelopes, with the necessary enclosures, and sent fully prepaid.*

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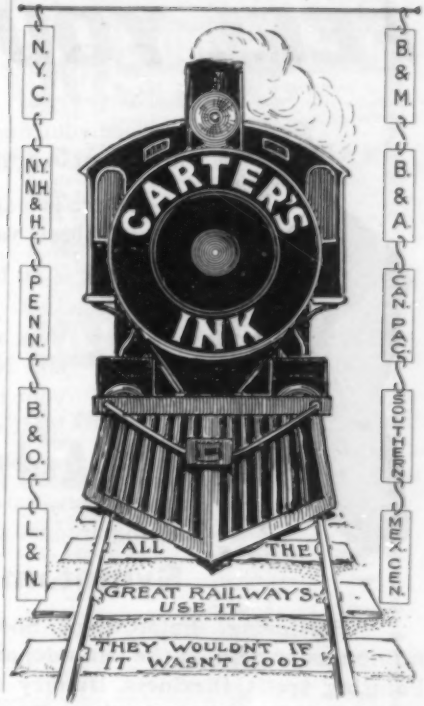

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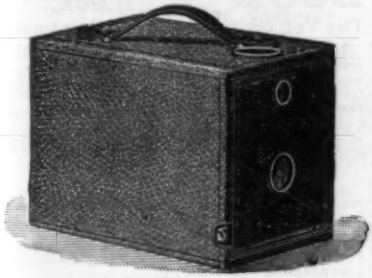

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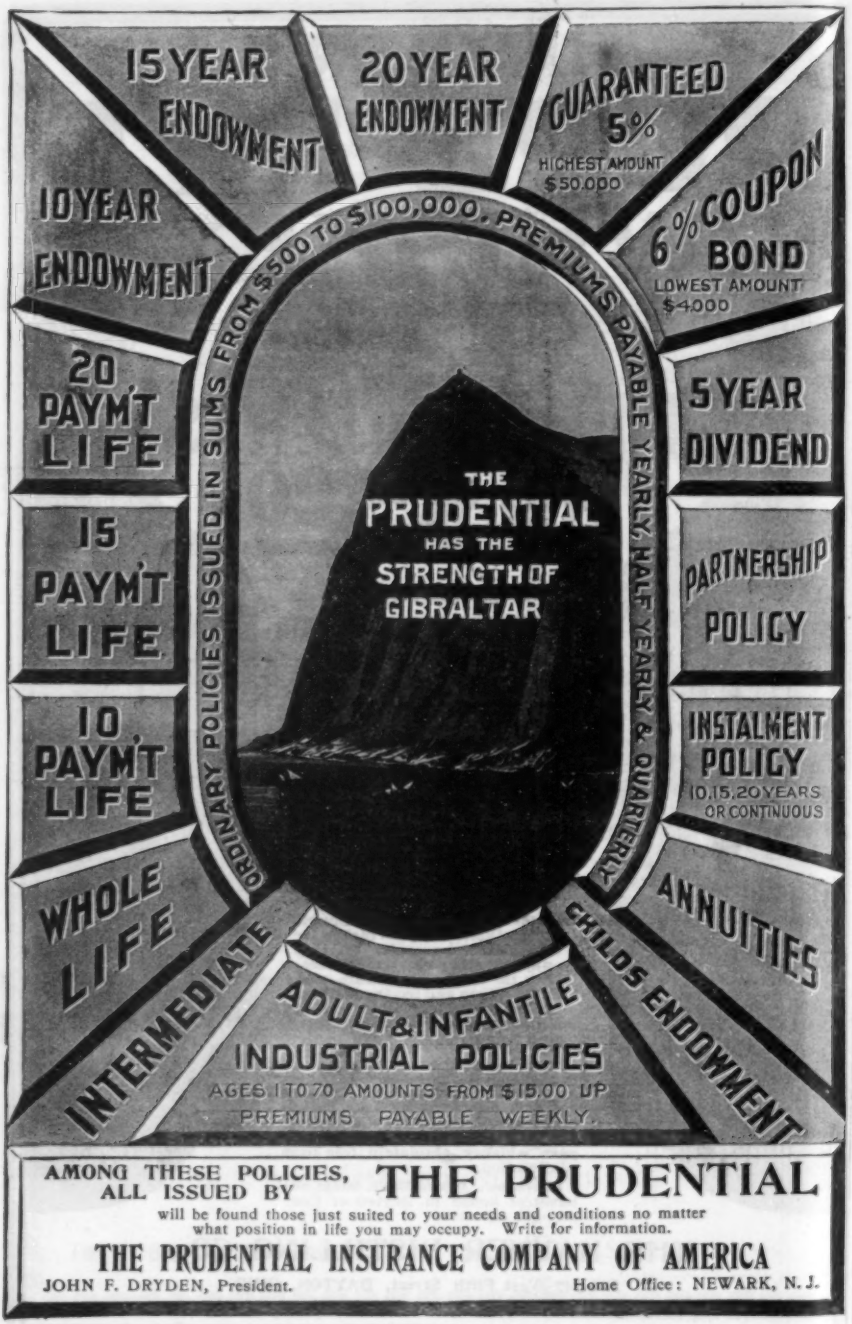

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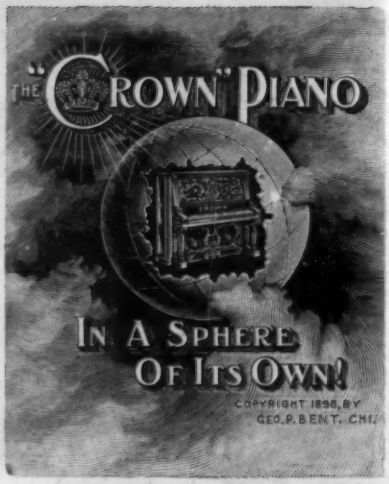

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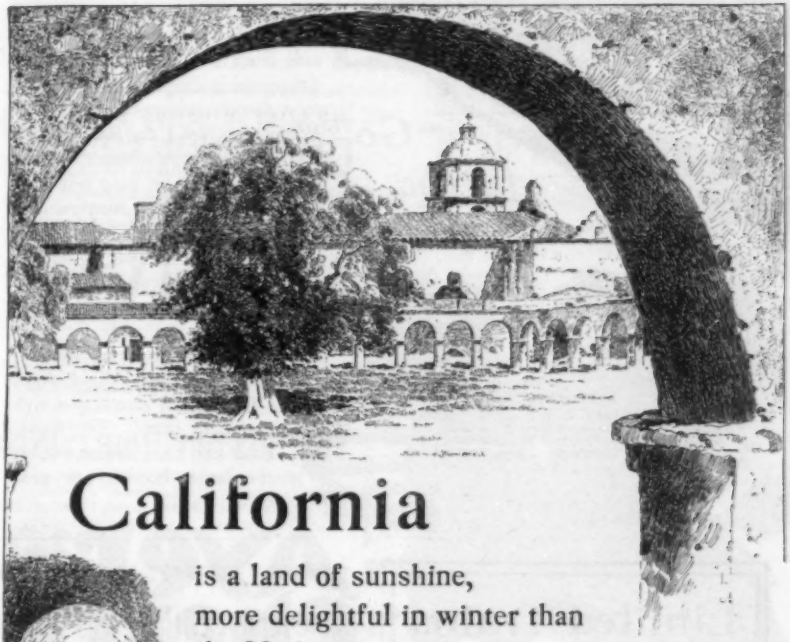

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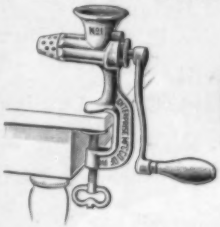

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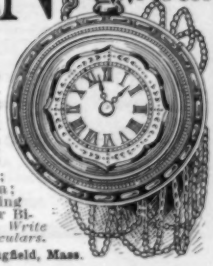

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It wants stories that are wholly original and new in plot, incident, situation, and handling—stories so fascinating in every detail and so interesting from beginning to end as to appeal to intelligent people everywhere. It wants clean, clever, wholesome stories, free from commonplace, padding, and foreign phrases—natural stories, logically thought out, tersely told in good English. It wants spirited stories that tell, and tell cleverly in a few pages what nine out of ten stories tell poorly in a dozen instalments. In short, it wants Stories that **are** Stories.

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4. With every manuscript intended for this $4,200 Prize Competition, there must be enclosed, in one and the same envelope, one yearly subscription to THE BLACK CAT, together with 50 cents to pay therefor. In case of subscriptions to foreign countries 24 cents must be added to cover postage.

5. All envelopes containing manuscripts with subscriptions as above must be plainly marked "For Competition" and addressed, "The Shortstory Publishing Company, 144 High Street, Boston, Mass." Their receipt will be promptly acknowledged. Any competitor may send as many stories as he pleases, but in each case all the above conditions must be complied with.

6. The competition will close March 31, 1900, and within 60 days from that date the awards will be announced in THE BLACK CAT, and paid in cash. Should two stories of equal merit be considered worthy of a prize, the prize will be either doubled or divided. In the case of stories unsuccessful in the competition but deemed desirable, the publishers will either award special prizes, of not less than $100 each, or will offer to purchase the same. All unsuccessful manuscripts, submitted as above, will be returned, together with the printed announcement of the results of the competition. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, neither the publishers nor the editor can enter into correspondence relative thereto.

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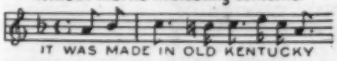

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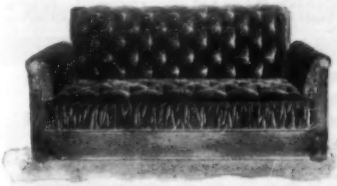

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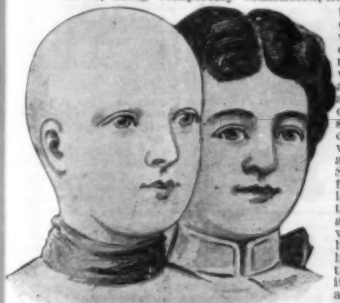

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Such whiskey as we offer you for $3.20 cannot be purchased elsewhere for less than $5.00, and the low price at which we offer it saves you the addition of middlemen's profits, besides you are guaranteed the certainty of **pure** whiskey absolutely free from adulteration.

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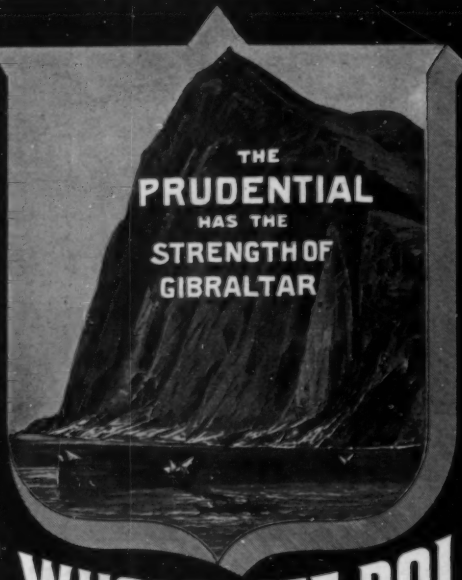
We guarantee the above firm to do as it agrees to.—EDITOR.



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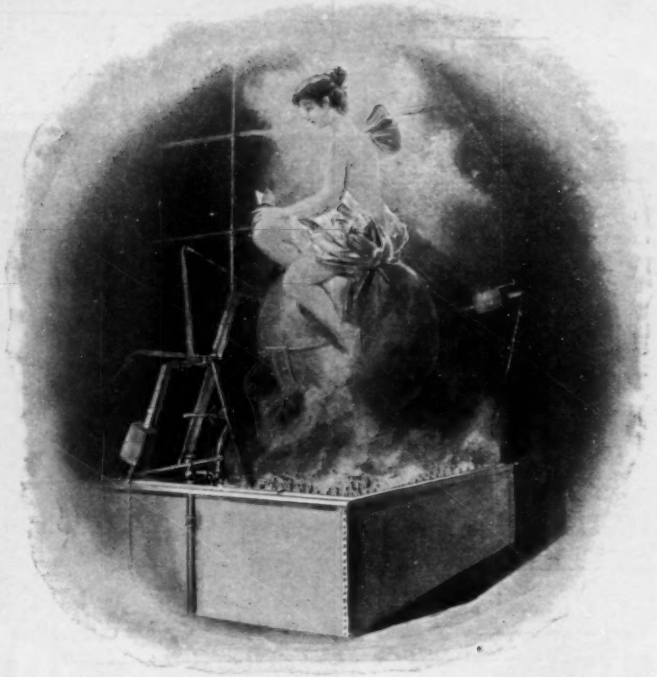

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We sterilize every bottle of Schlitz Beer after we bottle and seal it.

This seems a useless precaution after all the care we take in the brewing. But it is one of the extremes we go to rather than risk a touch of impurity.

That is the end of the process.

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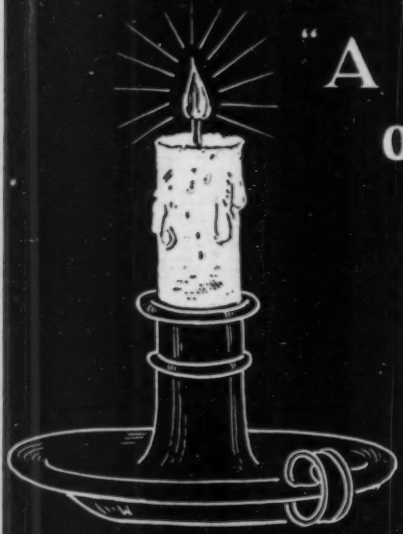

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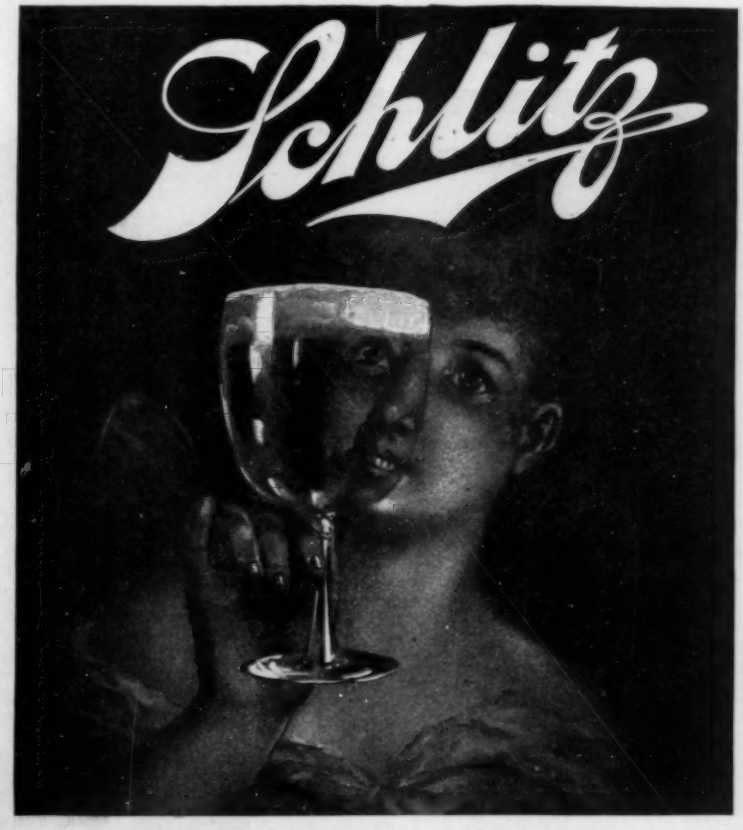

As Pure as it Seems

SCHLITZ beer is as good as it looks. There is no hidden impurity, yet a beer may look almost as well and still be very unhealthful. The impurities which we guard against most are in the form of bacteria. Their importance lies in the fact that they multiply, because beer is a saccharine product. A few may in a month become millions.

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If YOU are now experiencing the slightest difficulty in feeding your baby, we wish that you would drop us a line, your address on a postal will do, and we will gladly send you a sample of Mellin's Food for trial, with full directions.

Mellin's Food babies are known everywhere as babies who are strong, rugged and well, and happy all the day long.

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We thought we had an excellent idea—and so we did. But there was a flaw in it. We offered One Thousand Five Hundred Dollars for prizes to wearers of the Sorosis Shoe for the best fifteen stories illustrating the romance that naturally accompanies the beauty, style and comfort of the Sorosis Shoe as worn everywhere that fair women and brave men meet—on golf-links, tennis-courts, in mountain rambles, ball-rooms and busy streets, at home and abroad. So far so good. But our mail came in, and then the trouble began!

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But we don't intend to have the women put into competition with Tom, Dick and Harry. We stand by our original offer. And for Thomas, Richard and Henry we make a new offer—open to their sex alone.

There is nothing mean about the "Sorosis" Shoe or its manufacturers, and we'll prove it. Here is the proof:

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$500 for first-prize story, $250 for second-prize story,
and the rest, $750 in smaller prizes.

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Literary people of recognized standing and ability will be the judges of these stories. Send for full particulars respecting this competition to

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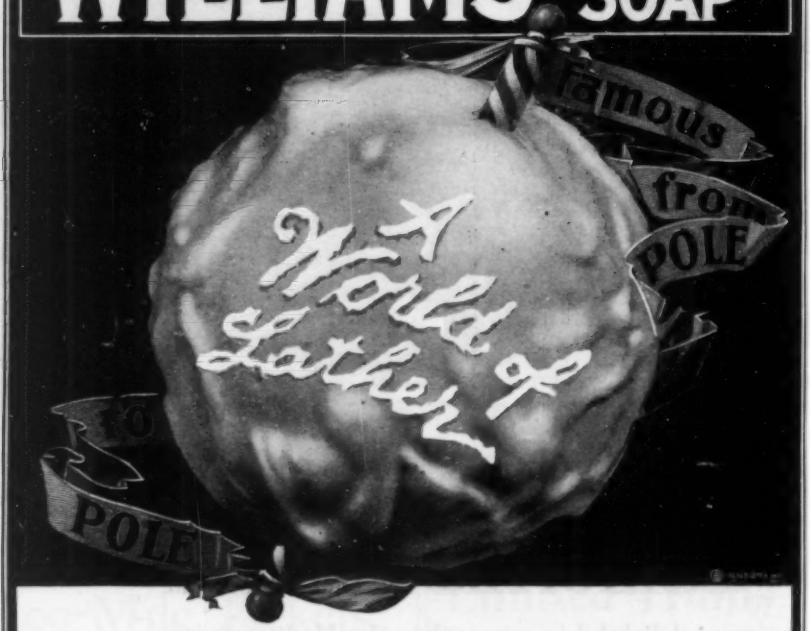

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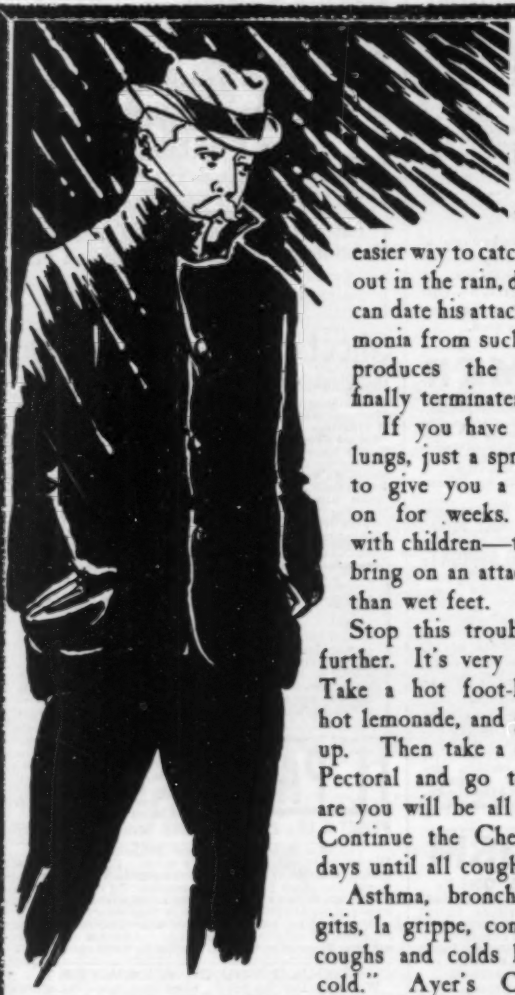

Catching Cold

We don't know of any easier way to catch cold than to be caught out in the rain, do you? Many a person can date his attack of bronchitis or pneumonia from such a time. And it often produces the first congestion that finally terminates in consumption.

If you have a weak throat or weak lungs, just a sprinkling is often enough to give you a hard cold which hangs on for weeks. It's just the same with children—there's nothing that will bring on an attack of the croup quicker than wet feet.

Stop this trouble before it goes any further. It's very easy and very simple. Take a hot foot-bath, drink a bowl of hot lemonade, and get thoroughly warmed up. Then take a dose of Ayer's Cherry Pectoral and go to bed. The chances are you will be all right in the morning. Continue the Cherry Pectoral for a few days until all coughing has disappeared.

Asthma, bronchitis, hoarseness, laryngitis, la grippe, consumption, and all hard coughs and colds begin with a "catching cold." Ayer's Cherry Pectoral cures these sharp colds quickly, and it cures the results of neglected colds, also, only it takes a little more time.

You Can Now Buy Ayer's Cherry Pectoral for 25 Cts.

The 25c. size is just right for an ordinary, everyday cold. For asthma, whooping-cough and such diseases, and for colds that have been hanging on, the 50c. size is better. For consumption and for chronic cases, the $1.00 size is most economical.

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"Whenever I hear a man or woman complain of any pain or disorder that arises from the nervous system, I prescribe Postum. Several of my business friends dub me 'Doctor Postum,' because I have cured them of their indigestion and dyspepsia."—W. A. Desborough, Sacramento, Cal.

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Stir Some

Grape-Nuts

In some Milk or Cream and a delicious Meal is ready.

No cooking required.

READY COOKED FOOD.

A Great Convenience for Housekeepers.

It is a known fact that many people fail to properly digest the starchy part of bread and other food. Grape-Nuts (a delightful breakfast food) are made of the grape-sugar which results from preparing the starchy parts of the cereals, in the same way artificially as the body should by natural processes. Therefore Grape-Nuts furnish food all ready for immediate assimilation into blood and tissue. They are made by the Postum Co., at Battle Creek, Mich., and are ready prepared, require no cooking whatever and will be found most valuable by Athlete, Brain-worker or Invalid.

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Imparts to salads of Vegetables, Fish, Fowl and Cold Meats an appetizing wholesomeness that renders it

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Free. Send for free booklet on "Salads: How to Make and Dress Them," giving many valuable and novel recipes for Salads, Sandwiches, Sauces, Luncheon Dishes, etc. Sample, 10c.

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"Star of Garter" Ribbed Woolen Underwear is as Sanitary or Hygienic as the most high-priced advertised specialties and at one-third their cost.

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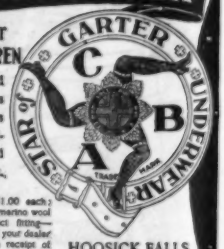

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GOOD SALAD

Is possible only with good olive oil. Some oils are made from cotton seeds, animal fats and similar products, which are often injurious.

Nicelle Olive Oil

is a pure, nutritious, perfectly flavored olive oil. It is made from "sound" olives and from nothing else. It makes a perfect dressing for perfect salads. Try a bottle and judge for yourself.

"Comparison is the test of Superiority."

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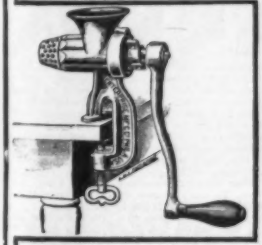

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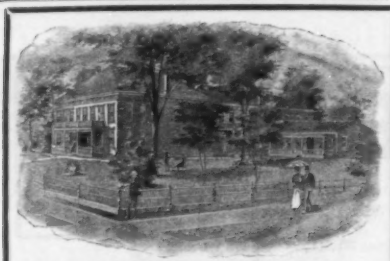

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Thousands have complied with our request, and received circulars. Hundreds have purchased RAY CAMERAS to enter this contest.

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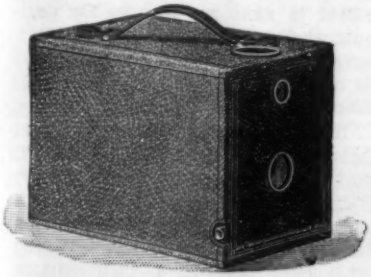
A perfect-working camera, making sharp, clear pictures 3 1-2 x 3 1-2 inches. It has everything that a camera must have to give satisfaction, and more than you'll find in many higher-priced cameras. Formerly sold for $5; as good as, if not superior to, any other $5 camera sold to-day.



Very compact. Carries 3 double plate-holders. Fitted with a GOOD achromatic lens. Has the latest model shutter, adjustable for time and instantaneous work.

Satisfaction is guaranteed. Camera is returnable in 10 days if you do not find that you have received your money's worth.

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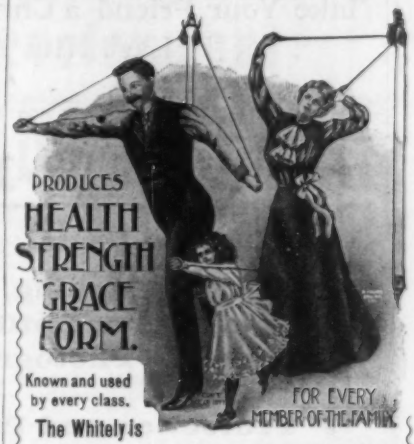

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Your physician will recommend it if you ask him.

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RECREATION is an illustrated monthly magazine devoted to Everything its Name Implies, and is a recognized Authority.

Special "Recreation" Offer for 1899

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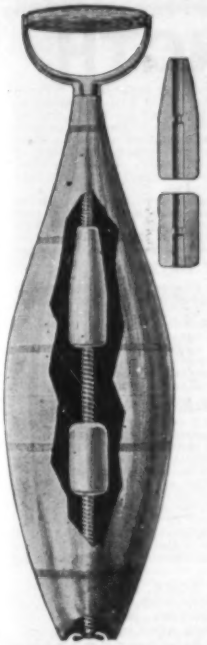

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"THE CLUB WITH LIFE IN IT."

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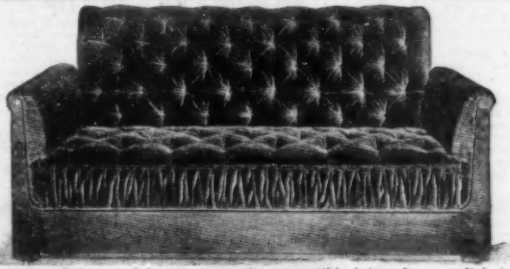

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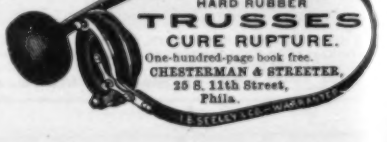

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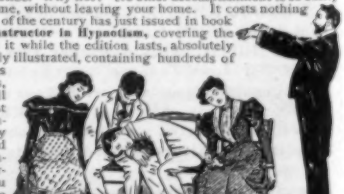

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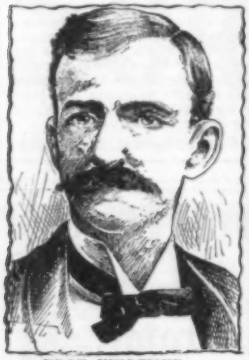

PROF. WELTMER.

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The Black Cat

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CONDITIONS:

1. Each manuscript must bear at the top of the first page the writer's real name and address, in full, as also the number of words it contains, which may range from 1,800 to 6,000, but must in no case exceed the latter number.

2. Each manuscript must be plainly written (either on typewriter or with pen) on one side of paper only, on sheets not larger than 8 x 11 inches, must be sent unrolled, *postage or express charges fully prepaid*, and accompanied by addressed and stamped envelope for return. Letters advising the submittal of stories must be *enclosed with manuscripts* and not sent under separate cover. Manuscripts will be received and returned only at the writer's risk.

3. Every story must be strictly original and must, neither wholly nor in part, have appeared in print in any language. Every story will be judged on its own merits; the name or reputation of a writer will carry absolutely no weight whatsoever. And furthermore, every story will be judged, not in accordance with its length, but with its worth as a story.

4. With every manuscript intended for this $4,200 Prize Competition, there must be enclosed, in one and the same envelope, one yearly subscription to THE BLACK CAT, together with 50 cents to pay therefor. In case of subscriptions to foreign countries 24 cents must be added to cover postage.

5. All envelopes containing manuscripts with subscriptions as above must be plainly marked "For Competition" and addressed, "The Shortstory Publishing Company, 144 High Street, Boston, Mass." Their receipt will be promptly acknowledged. Any competitor may send as many stories as he pleases, but in each case all the above conditions must be complied with.

6. The competition will close March 31, 1900, and within 60 days from that date the awards will be announced in THE BLACK CAT, and paid in cash. Should two stories of equal merit be considered worthy of a prize, the prize will be either doubled or divided. In the case of stories unsuccessful in the competition but deemed desirable, the publishers will either award special prizes, of not less than $100 each, or will offer to purchase the same. All unsuccessful manuscripts, submitted as above, will be returned, together with the printed announcement of the results of the competition. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, neither the publishers nor the editor can enter into correspondence relative thereto.

IMPORTANT. *As no manuscripts in the case of which all the above conditions have not been complied with will be considered, it is urged that competitors make sure that their manuscripts are prepared strictly in accordance with the foregoing, are securely sealed in strong envelopes, with the necessary enclosures, and sent fully prepaid.*

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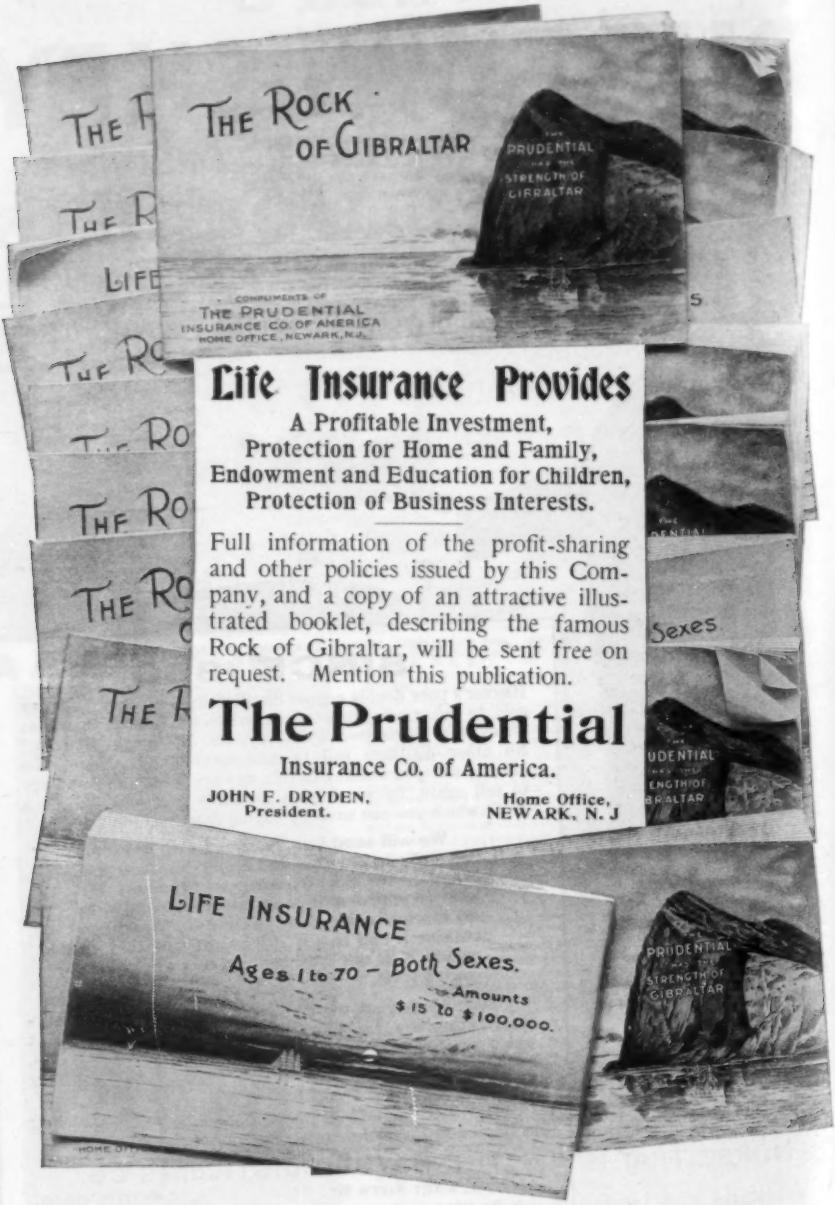

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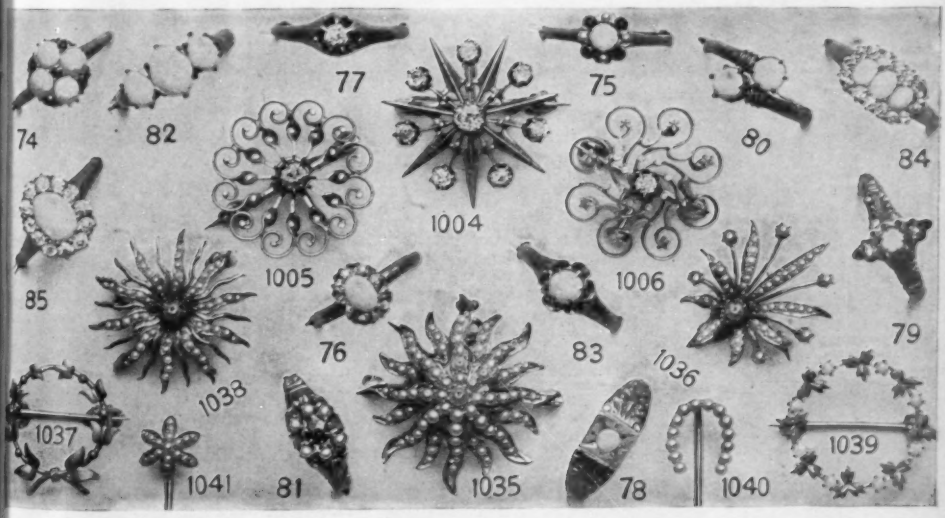

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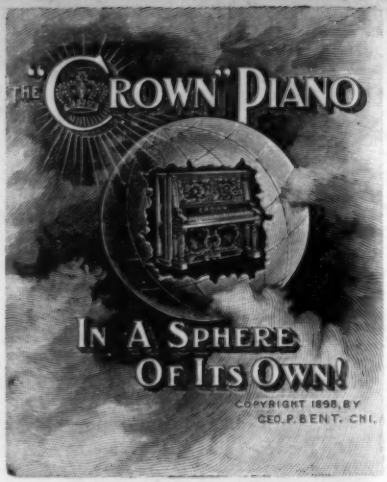

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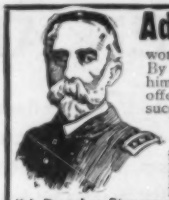

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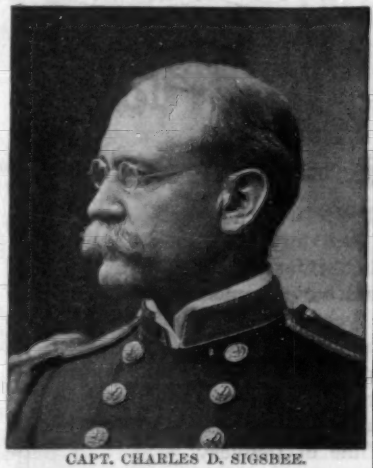

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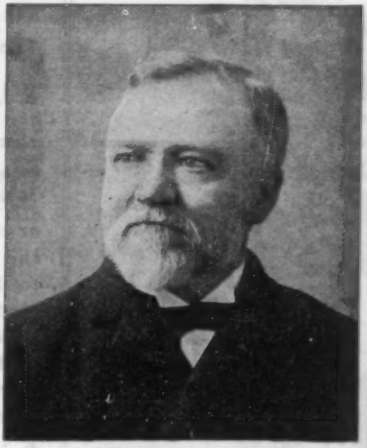

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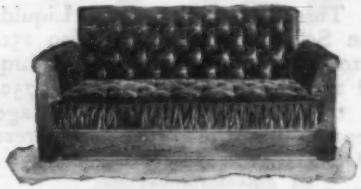

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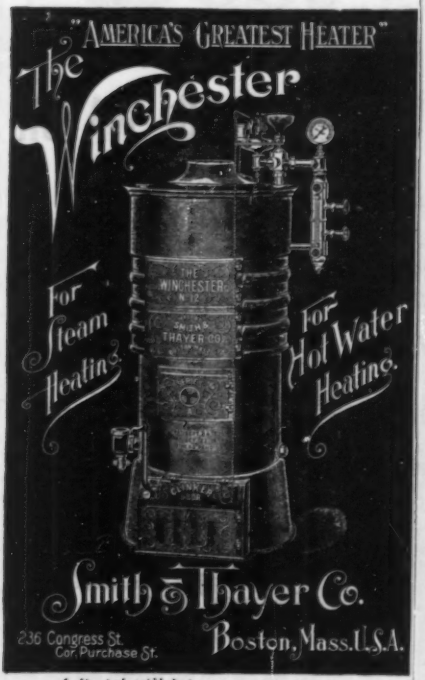

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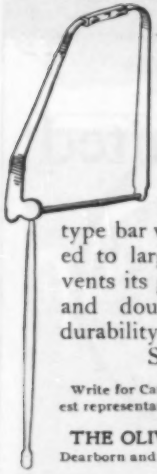

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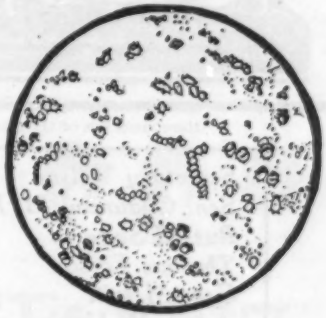

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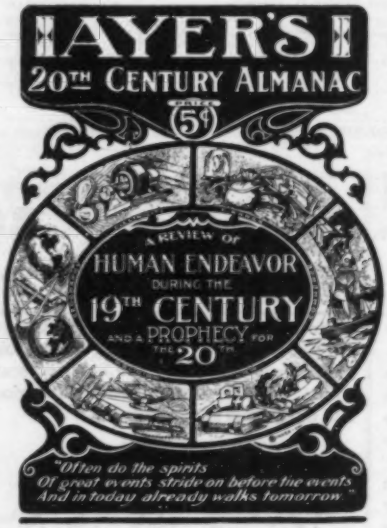

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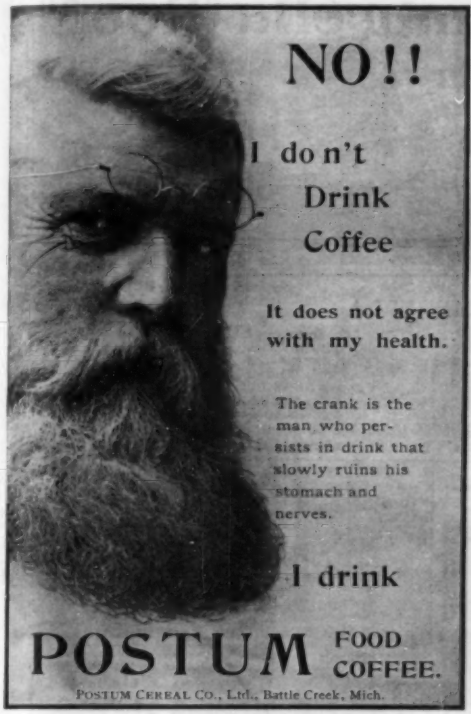

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Is sold by Grocers, or sent, postpaid, (together with a free copy of "Dainty Desserts for Dainty People") pint sample, 5c.; two quart package, 15c. (2 for 25c.). Pink Gelatine for fancy desserts in every package. CHAS. B. KNOX, 20 Knox Ave., Johnstown, N. Y.

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IT IS THE ONLY GENUINE CABINET MADE.

HAS A REAL DOOR, opens wide—hinged to frame. Other Cabinets with so-called door are simply a hole or slit to crawl through. **FRAMEWORK** strong and rigid, made of best steel, galvanized to prevent its rusting. **EIGHT UPRIGHTS** support it from top to bottom. Some affairs on the market have no supports whatever. Cabinet rests on shoulders—others have 2 or 3 flimsy supports, shaky and unsatisfactory. **DURABLE COVERING MATERIAL**, very best antiseptic cloth—**RUBBER LINED. TOP CURTAINS** open on top for cooling off—cabinets that do not do this are said to be dangerous. **LARGE AND ROOMY INSIDE.** Knees, arms and body do not touch the sides. Plenty of room for hot foot bath, and to sponge, towel and cool the body while inside. **FOLDS FLAT** like a screen in 1 inch space—others crush together and damage the goods. **WEIGHS** complete only 10 pounds. **EASILY CARRIED.**

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There is no Man, Woman or Child in the World Whom Turkish and Vapor Baths will not Benefit.

Seated on a chair (with the head outside breathing pure air) one enjoys at home for 3c each, all of the cleansing, curative, invigorating and purifying effects of the famous Turkish, Hot Air and Vapor baths, perfumed or medicated if desired. Better and cheaper than any treatment at Turkish Bath Rooms, Sanitariums and Hot Springs.

SO SIMPLE TO OPERATE.

Before retiring, light stove, step in Cabinet, close and lock door, sit down and you enjoy a temperature of 100° to 150° F. according to how you regulate stove. **All done in one minute.** Stay in 15 to 30 minutes—open top curtains, cool off gradually while you sponge and towel the body. Impossible to catch cold or weaken the system. Perfectly safe and harmless.

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by imitations. We do not make it our business to find fault with other people's goods, but as there are a number of unreliable, irresponsible concerns who have sprung up in the past few months, know nothing whatever of the laws of hygiene, and have no regard for the public health, are trying to market so-called Cabinets, which are inconvenient, unreliable and dangerous to use, on the strength of satisfaction given, and the enormous demand created for our genuine Quaker, and as we have many letters from persons who have bought such goods, are unable to use them, and obliged to throw them away and secure a genuine Cabinet from us, we feel it our duty to warn the public, so that no one else may be imposed upon.

If our Cabinet is not the best in every way we do not want you to keep it.

Don't use a Cabinet which has no door, no frame, no rubber lining. **Remember a wooden frame Cabinet** is ten years behind the times, is worthless, and **about as valuable as a wooden stove would be.**

Do not pay $7.50, $12.50 or $18.00 for inferior, bunglesome and inconvenient affairs when the best costs only $5.00.

Place your order with us and you have the satisfaction of knowing you are doing business with a responsible and reliable firm (capital $100,000.00) who know the requirements of a first-class Cabinet, do exactly as they agree and furnish you a genuine Cabinet, guaranteed to be the best in every particular.

Write today for full information and **our valuable book**, also testimonials from thousands of customers. Or, better still, order a Cabinet. You won't be deceived or disappointed, as we guarantee every one and refund your money after 30 days' use if not just as represented. We ship the same day your order is received. **DO NOT FAIL TO SEND FOR BOOKLET**, as it will prove interesting.

It is the only Bath which PRESERVES HEALTH, **PREVENTS Colds, Fevers, Lagrippe** and **Disease.**

CURES bodily ailments. Makes clear skin, pure blood, strong nerves, clear brain, healthy bodies.

Makes you sleep sound. Beautifies complexion.

SOAP AND WATER simply washes the surface of the skin, while Vapor baths open the 5,000,000 pores all over the body, stimulating the sweat glands, washing out all the poisons in the blood, and the impure acids, salts, etc., which if retained overwork and weaken the heart, kidneys, lungs, liver, causing disease, debility and sluggishness.

WE POSITIVELY GUARANTEE RESULTS.

Our Cabinet is recommended by 27,000 best physicians, and **it will cure Nervous Troubles** and **Debility, Sleeplessness, Obesity, Lagrippe, Neuralgia.**

CURES RHEUMATISM—(we have offered for four years a standing reward of $50.00 for a case not relieved). Cures Woman's Troubles, Headache, Gout, Piles, Dropsy, Diabetes, all Blood and **Skin Diseases, Liver** and **Kidney Troubles.**

IT WILL CURE A HARD COLD with one bath, and prevent Fevers, Pneumonia, Lung Fever, Asthma, Lagrippe and is really a household necessity. With the Cabinet, if desired, is a

HEAD AND COMPLEXION STEAMING ATTACHMENT

(the best ever offered) in which the head, face and neck is given the same vapor treatment as the body. Makes clear skin, beautiful complexion, cures and prevents pimples, blotches, blackheads, skin eruptions and diseases. Invaluable for colds in the head, Asthma, Catarrh and Bronchitis.

We furnish a perfect alcohol stove complete with regulator and support, with each Cabinet free of charge. This is the best of all stoves; great improvement over all others. Safe, harmless, economical.

So confident are we that our Cabinet will please you that

WE SEND IT ON 30 DAYS' TRIAL

to be returned at our expense and your money refunded if not just as represented. What could be more fair? We could not afford to have a Cabinet out which was not just as represented or satisfactory. **ORDER TODAY.** The price is wonderfully low. Only $5.00 for Cabinet complete, including alcohol stove, plain directions and valuable formulas and receipts for medicated baths and various ailments. Face steamer $1.00 extra.

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Most shaving soaps dry quickly on the face—and this produces the smarting and irritation so annoying and dangerous.

You can apply the Rich, Cream-like lather of Williams' Soap, sit down and read your morning paper, and still find the lather almost as moist and thick as when first applied. Your beard will be thoroughly softened, and you will enjoy a most soothing, comforting, refreshing shave. This remarkable quality of WILLIAMS' SHAVING SOAP is found in no other, and has made it famous from pole to pole.

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Produce each a disease having definite pathology. The disease yields easily to the Double Chloride of Gold Treatment as administered at the following Keeley Institutes:

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Inebriety, Morphine, and other Drug habits are dependent upon a diseased condition of the nervous system.

The victim of the disease again and again puts forth the most heroic efforts to reform, but his disease is too absolutely overpowering to be conquered by resolutions. The will power he would exercise if he could is no longer supreme. Alcoholic stimulants have so congested the delicate nerve cells that they cannot respond to the performance of their functional duties, and the helplessness of the victim's condition is as inexplicable to himself as it seems inexcusable to his friends.

The Keeley treatment cures this disease by restoring the nerves to a perfectly healthy state. **It cures by removing the cause.** The result is that the patient is left in a normal and healthy condition, and he has neither craving, desire, nor necessity for stimulants.

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GUIDE TO STRENGTH.

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It is a guide to men both single and married, offering much valuable advice and outlining a course to pursue for the greatest possible development of manhood both physical and mental. It tells that strength once dissipated may be regained by nature's treatment

WITHOUT DRUGS.

It tells of my success in the proper employment of the galvanic current of electricity and how I discovered 25 years ago that an appliance was required which would give a continuous, mild current for seven or eight hours at a time. This led me to construct a portable chain battery which the patient might apply himself, and started me in on a line of experiment that has developed by degrees, by 25 years of close practical study and application into the construction of my present

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$4,200 Cash!

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To quote *The New York Tribune*, "THE BLACK CAT inaugurated a new era in story-telling," and in the words of *The San Francisco Examiner*, "It is the story-telling hit of the century." It appeals to people who prefer **Quality** to Quantity, who prefer **Originality** to Commonplace. It publishes no Continued stories, no Translations, no Borrowings, no Stealings. It pays the highest price in the world for stories that **are** stories, and it pays, not according to length but according to strength. It pays, furthermore, not according to the name or reputation of a writer but according to the cleverness and excellence of a story.

CONDITIONS:

1. Each manuscript must bear at the top of the first page the writer's real name and address, in full, as also the number of words it contains, which may range from 1,800 to 6,000, but must in no case exceed the latter number.

2. Each manuscript must be plainly written (either on typewriter or with pen) on one side of paper only, on sheets not larger than 8 x 11 inches, must be sent unrolled, *postage or express charges fully prepaid*, and accompanied by addressed and stamped envelope for return. Letters advising the submittal of stories must be *enclosed with manuscripts* and not sent under separate cover. Manuscripts will be received and returned only at the writer's risk.

3. Every story must be strictly original and must, neither wholly nor in part, have appeared in print in any language. Every story will be judged on its own merits: the name or reputation of a writer will carry absolutely no weight whatsoever. And furthermore, every story will be judged, not in accordance with its length, but with its worth as a story.

4. With every manuscript intended for this $4,200 Prize Competition, there must be enclosed, in one and the same envelope, one yearly subscription to THE BLACK CAT, together with 50 cents to pay therefor. In case of subscriptions to foreign countries 24 cents must be added to cover postage.

5. All envelopes containing manuscripts with subscriptions as above must be plainly marked "For Competition" and addressed, "The Shortstory Publishing Company, 144 High Street, Boston, Mass." Their receipt will be promptly acknowledged. Any competitor may send as many stories as he pleases, but in each case all the above conditions must be complied with.

6. The competition will close March 31, 1900, and within 60 days from that date the awards will be announced in THE BLACK CAT, and paid in cash. Should two stories of equal merit be considered worthy of a prize, the prize will be either doubled or divided. In the case of stories unsuccessful in the competition but deemed desirable, the publishers will either award special prizes, of not less than $100 each, or will offer to purchase the same. All unsuccessful manuscripts, submitted as above, will be returned, together with the printed announcement of the results of the competition. The conditions and requirements being here fully set forth, neither the publishers nor the editor can enter into correspondence relative thereto.

IMPORTANT. *As no manuscripts in the case of which all the above conditions have not been complied with will be considered, it is urged that competitors make sure that their manuscripts are prepared strictly in accordance with the foregoing, are securely sealed in strong envelopes, with the necessary enclosures, and sent fully prepaid.*

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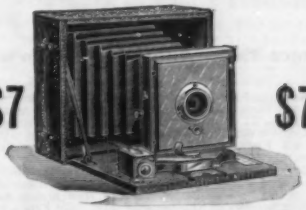
$7  $7

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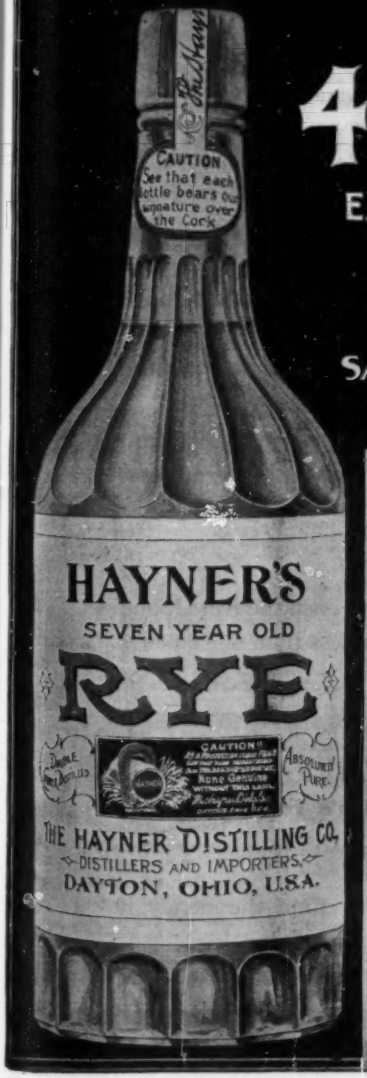

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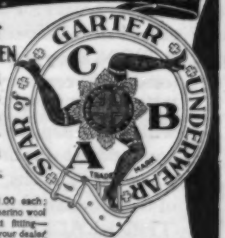

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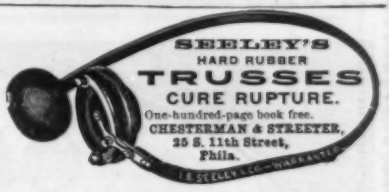

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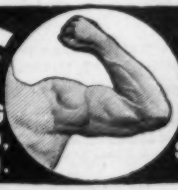

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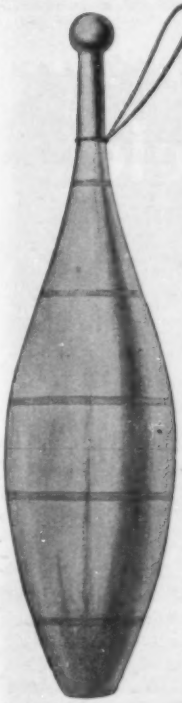

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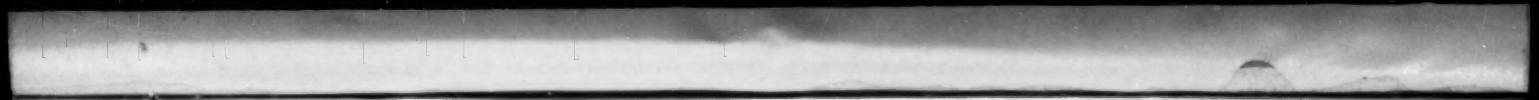
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